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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Committee Meets With Lebanese Front

Lebanese Delegation Arrives

LD1204145289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1332 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Kuwait, April 12 (KUNA)—A five-member delegation representing the Christian Lebanese Front arrived here today for talks with the Arab League's Good Offices Committee on the Lebanese crisis, presided over by Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

The Front's delegation which flew in aboard a special Kuwaiti aircraft comprises Phalangist leader George Sa'adah, leader of Organization Party George 'Adwan, MP Michel Sasin, leader of National Liberals Dany Sham'un and chairman of the Maronite Society Shakir Abu Sulayman.

Speaking to KUNA upon arrival, Sa'adah said the solution of the Lebanese crisis is "to leave the Lebanese alone. We can reach a solution if we were left to ourselves and we would not have been in need of troubles from any of our Arab brothers."

"In the past we called for a Lebanese-Lebanese initiative to settle the conflict but when we did not arrive at an acceptable solution we called on the Arab League to intervene," Sa'adah said.

He expressed hope that the committee's last session would find an end to the Lebanese tragedy.

Asked on the Front's viewpoint regarding the required reforms in Lebanon, Sa'adah said what concerns the Lebanese most is reconstruction of [words indistinct].

"Can we talk about political reforms under a hail of shellfire which pours on us and on our children?" he questioned, adding that the Front was not against reform.

[Words indistinct] Lebanon's two rival governments, divided Army and paralysed parliament it is impossible to consider the issue of reforms as the institutions entrusted with reform are themselves in need of reform, Sa'adah added.

Shaykh Sabah, Arab League chief Chedli Klibi and Jordan's Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim held a brief meeting in preparation for their encounter with the Lebanese Front, due to take place later today at Bayan Palace.

Shaykh Sabah is due to address the gathering and then the committee would listen to the viewpoint of the Front's delegation on settling the Lebanese conflict.

The committee will later meet separately to draw up the broadlines of its report prior to submission to the League's Council, in open session for this purpose.

Talks Begin in Kuwait

LD1204204989 Kuwait KUNA in English 1904 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Kuwait, April 12 (KUNA)—The Arab League good offices committee on Lebanon opened talks here tonight with Lebanese Christian politicians in the fifth round of contacts with political and religious leaders to secure a peaceful settlement of the Lebanese crisis.

The committee, headed by Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, met a five-member delegation of the Lebanese Front comprising Christian parties and groupings. The delegation is headed by Phalange Party chief Dr. George Sa'adah.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, the United Arab Emirates State Minister for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdullah and the Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi took part in the talks. Algeria and Tunisia were represented by their ambassadors to Kuwait, while Sudan's seat was vaccant.

In an opening statement, Shaykh Sabah welcomed the Lebanese Christian leaders and thanked them for meeting with the Arab League panel.

The committee, Shaykh Sabah went on, is eager to listen to ideas and proposals on ways of ending the Lebanese crisis from leaders of the Lebanese Front.

Shaykh Sabah pointed out that the committee has had four rounds of constructive and important talks with other Lebanese leaders. "Our deliberations sought the right path to ensuring security and peace for all the Lebanese," Shaykh Sabah said, adding that the panel has been working in strict neutrality to achieve peaceful co-existence and welfare in Lebanon.

But Shaykh Sabah regretted that today's meeting was being held against the background of artillery boom and gunfire crackle in and around the Lebanese capital that have claimed innumerable civilian casualties and caused considerable damage. The deputy premier said it was high time for national conciliation in Lebanon following 15 years of civil war and destruction.

Shaykh Sabah stressed that resolution of the Lebanese crisis requires that all parties lay to rest old wounds and open a new page of tolerance and conciliation. The committee chairman said all Arabs are anxious to see Lebanon back on track and enjoying afresh its peace, stability and prosperity.

Shaykh Sabah said the committee embraces the hope that the meeting would result in a preliminary formula that serves as a basis for the start of a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

2d Working Session Held

LD1304105689 Kuwait KUNA in English 0913 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Kuwait, April 13 (KUNA)—The six-member Arab League Committee on Lebanon held a second working session Thursday with a delegation of the Lebanese Front at the Bayan Palace. Members of the committee had opened consultations earlier this morning under chairmanship of Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

Sudanese Ambassador to Kuwait Muhammad al-Amin 'Abdallah took part in the consultations on behalf of his country.

During the first working session, held last night over three hours, the Front tabled its views on means of ending the Lebanese crisis. The Front stressed importance of a ceasefire and demanded Syrian military withdrawal from Lebanon as a pre-condition before discussing any solution and holding constitutional elections.

'Arafat Reportedly Not To Attend Amman Meeting

JN1204131889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 12 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is scheduled to arrive in Amman this afternoon on a working visit that will last a few hours and during which he will hold talks with King Husayn of Jordan on the outcome of his recent visit to Washington.

The meeting comes within the framework of continuous consultations and coordination between Husayn and Mubarak on peace endeavors in the Middle East before the Jordanian king's talks with U.S. President George Bush, which are scheduled to take place in Washington on 19 April. This was stated by an official Jordanian source.

The Jordanian source did not confirm the possibility of the arrival of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Amman to join the two leaders' talks. This contradicts what was reported in Cairo and Amman that 'Arafat will accompany Mubarak on his visit to Jordan after he stops over in Cairo.

In this regard, informed sources in Amman stated that 'Arafat will not come to Jordan, but will meet with Mubarak in Cairo after the latter's talks with the Jordanian king.

It was learned from official sources that President Mubarak will join King Husayn for an iftar dinner banquet after being accorded an official welcome at Amman military airport. The Egyptian president is scheduled to leave Amman tonight for home.

Palestinian Affairs

Egypt Said To Relay U.S. Proposal to PLO

JN1204165089 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 11 Apr 89 p 1, 21

[Excerpts] Cairo, Washington—AL-ITTIHAD and news agencies—[Passage omitted] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Egypt informed the PLO of a U.S. proposal delaying PLO participation in the peace process to a later stage after preparatory negotiations consisting of three stages. Egypt asked the PLO to consider Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's proposal on municipal elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which were officially rejected by the PLO yesterday. [passage omitted]

Informed political sources in Cairo pointed out to AL-ITTIHAD that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and Egyptian foreign minister, had informed the Palestinian delegation chaired by PLO Cairo representative Jamal al-Surani of a U.S. proposal calling for postponing PLO participation in negotiations over a settlement to a later stage following the three-stage preparatory period. After that, direct negotiations between the Arab countries and Israel will start. Dr 'Abd al-Majid also asked the Palestinian delegation to consider the idea proposed by Shamir to hold elections in the occupied territories. He indicated that Egypt will inform the United States of its official response to this after exploring the PLO's opinion on the issue.

The Egyptian foreign minister clarified that the U.S. stand is on the verge of recognizing the national and legitimate considerations of the Palestinian people. He said that there is no Arab-U.S. disagreement now over the necessity of giving the Palestinians the right to self-determination. [passage omitted]

Khalaf: PLO Wants UN-Sponsored Elections

LD1204142289 Rabat MAP in English 1238 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Casablanca, Apr 12 (MAP)—The Palestinians reject the Israeli proposal to organize elections in the occupied territories because "accepting such elections would mean that we play the game of Israel which makes a distinction between the Palestinians inside the territories and those outside" member of the PLO Executive Committee Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf]. [sentence as received]

In an interview published Tuesday by the Moroccan daily MAROC SOIR, the Palestinian official said, "We do not reject the elections but the way Israel wants to organize them and the unvoiced aims they are targetted

at". The Palestinians have always opposed any solution meant to divide the Palestinian people, Abu Iyad said, pointing out that the PLO was "for UN sponsored elections" that will be organized inside and outside the territories to elect a legislative body that will announce whether the PLO represented it or not.

The Palestinian official stated further that "Israel will end up by negotiating with the PLO" under the effect of the intifadah [uprising] and the Palestinian political campaign. The Palestinian offensive in favour of peace was fruitful since the Jews of the United States, France and Belgium ask that the PLO be recognized and that dialogue with its leaders be started, he said.

As to the invitation extended by President of France Francois Mitterand to Yasir 'Arafat to visit France, Abu Iyad said this visit will be a step towards the international peace conference adding that France's stand reflects that of all the European community.

Egypt's return within the Arab League is no longer opposed since Cairo adopted two stands that had affected the course of the Camp David Accord: The recognition of the Palestinian state and the backing to the international peace conference on the Middle East, Abu Iyad said affirming that Egypt would attend the upcoming Arab summit.

Al-Husayni: Shamir Proposal Termed 'Time Bomb'

NC1204154289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the Arab Studies Society in Jerusalem and a prominent Palestinian figure in the occupied territories, has stated that no elections can be held in the occupied territories while there is Israeli occupation, even if these elections are held under UN sponsorship and supervision.

Al-Husayni expressed the belief that if these elections are held and negotiations take place, several complications might arise. For example, Israel might pursue its repressive operations and arrest many people in the occupied territories. This will adversely affect any negotiations and eventually scuttle them. It will also drive a wedge into the unity of the Palestinians, which is one of Israel's aims.

In an interview to be published in the Friday edition of the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, Al-Husayni described Yitzhaq Shamir's proposal to hold elections in the occupied territories as a time bomb. He stressed that Israel does not want to talk to the PLO because it does not want to talk with the Palestinians as a people. It wants to unilaterally deal with the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a people who live on that land, while it deals with the Palestinians abroad as refugees who have refugee rights given to them by the host countries.

Al-Husayni noted that Shamir's aim is to confuse the situation, postpone a solution, and mark time with the hope that the international situation will change and lead to an end to U.S.-Soviet detente or to a change in the European stand until Israel puts down the intifadah [uprising].

Al-Husayni called on the United States not to be deceived by Shamir's maneuver.

He stressed that the negotiations must be without strings and they must be held with the PLO. He expressed the belief that negotiations will be good for paving the way for the international conference, which is the only possible and viable means for reaching a just and permanent solution. He also stressed that the negotiations must be held without any prior conditions and must not be linked to halting the intifadah or to calming the situation in the occupied areas.

Al-Husayni declared that the Palestinian intifadah will continue and triumph. He indicated that by the end of this year Shamir will discover that he has failed in every way to strike at and put down the intifadah. Shamir will have two options: Either he will agree to open talks with the PLO and recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, or he will be obliged to step down. Israel will then face new elections in which the Palestinian issue will be the main theme.

Al-Husayni called on the United States to adopt a fairer stand toward the intifadah and to adopt a firmer stand on this subject. He again affirmed that the international conference is the basis for reaching any just settlement of the Palestinian issue.

Further on Al-Husayni Views

JN1204094689 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Apr 89 pp 1, 12

[Interview with Palestinian activist Faysal al-Husayni by 'Isam 'Abd al-Baqi in Cairo—date not given]

[Text] ['Abd al-Baqi] How do you view Shamir's recent proposals on elections?

[Al-Husayni] These proposals are not new. We have heard Yitzhaq Rabin make them in the past. Now Shamir is repeating them.

We want freedom, we want genuine democracy. We want just and lasting peace. Now we are under occupation. How can elections be held under occupation? Elections mean democracy and freedom. What kind of freedom will we have in an occupied territory? Elections should be guaranteed by international forces, they should be held under international supervision.

['Abd al-Baqi] Shamir proposed that elections could be supervised internationally. What do you say to that?

[Al-Husayni] International supervision under occupation will not guarantee free and fair elections. It will not guarantee an end to occupation but will abort all of the intifadah's [uprising] achievements. Therefore, we demand elections under international forces and not observers. We will not accept elections except under the protection of international forces guaranteeing freedom of elections, safeguarding their results, and preventing the Israelis from interfering in the elections either directly or indirectly or aborting their results.

How can we accept elections supervised by Israel and how can we confront our people with this acceptance? In such a case, Israel could easily arrest ordinary people or leaders and could impose total or partial curfew. What kind of freedom or democracy would that be?

As I said, democracy is the culmination of the democratic process and neither freedom nor democracy can be made available under occupation. Shamir's proposals are only an attempt to circumvent the intifadah.

['Abd al-Baqi] In a recent interview with Japanese television, 'Arafat's adviser Nabil Sha'th said that he agrees that the Israeli forces could withdraw from areas where elections are to be held. This means that the Israeli forces would not be withdrawn completely but only from election areas. Do you agree with him?

[Al-Husayni] If what is meant is withdrawal from towns and leaving to us the full authority in election areas, guaranteeing for us complete freedom in elections and respecting the election results, then we might talk about that.

I will not accept being a representative of an area and then fail to tell the people and others my frank opinion. We want genuine democracy.

['Abd al-Baqi] Do you believe that the U.S. Administration has adopted new positions on the issue that are close to the Palestinian people's aspirations?

[Al-Husayni] We hope so, and we also hope that the U.S. Administration will pressure Israel and that Bush will be committed to what he says about democracy, freedom, and free elections. We believe that he understands his words and their requirements. Freedom and democracy do not exist under occupation.

We hope the United States will take further steps to give momentum to the peace process in the region. We believe the U.S. steps are insufficient and that other steps need to be taken.

['Abd al-Baqi] Are you in constant touch with the U.S. Administration?

[Al-Husayni] I held some meetings with U.S. officials and members of peace conferences during my visit to the United States.

['Abd al-Baqi] What is your impression of these meetings?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that there is a desire for understanding the positions of both sides, and we hope that they will begin to apply a new policy in the region.

['Abd al-Baqi] The Israelis are trying to restrict the dialogue on the Palestinians' cause to people inside the occupied territories. Therefore, they do not admit the need to talk to the PLO and they are trying to find alternatives to the PLO inside the occupied territories. What do you say?

[Al-Husayni] We do not like Shamir, but, as a representative of the Israelis, we are ready to talk to him. We know his terrorist past and his hostile positions toward the Arabs. But, in disputes, talks should be between the parties to the dispute. In light of this, we have agreed to talk to Shamir. In return, Shamir must accept the PLO, because it is the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

It is the PLO, and not Shamir, that can authorize people to speak for it at any negotiations. Shamir must coexist with this reality. The problem is between the Palestinians and the Israelis, and each side is entitled to appoint its representatives. The Israelis have placed their confidence in Shamir, and the Palestinians have placed their confidence in the PLO. Therefore, the two sides should agree to talk to each other.

I believe that the differences stem from the fact that the Israelis want to solve the Palestinians' problem inside the occupied territories as a problem of refugees. They view these Palestinians as residents without any rights in the region or any right to a state. We insist on a solution to the whole Palestine question and to Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories. Any partial solution to the Palestine question inside the occupied territories will be a temporary one, and problems will emerge again sooner or later.

['Abd al-Baqi] What have the Palestinians in the occupied territory told the Israelis in response to this position?

[Al-Husayni] Everybody said that they are part of the Palestinian people, that the Palestinian people have only one representative; namely, the PLO. They told them: If you are searching for peace, begin from here. We have repeatedly made it clear that the PLO is our representative.

['Abd al-Baqi] Can you comment on a statement by Bassam Abu Sharif in which he accepts U.S. forces instead of international forces to guarantee elections in the occupied territory?

[Al-Husayn] We want an end to occupation, and there are many methods to reach a Palestinian state. We accept any method that leads us to a sound solution. We do not oppose any solution or method that could lead us to a genuine Palestinian state.

['Abd al-Baqi] Do you believe that the end of the Iraq-Iran war has given further momentum to the Palestinian cause?

[Al-Husayni] Undoubtedly, because we believe that cooperation is necessary to solve the problems in the region, that peace in the region serves everybody's interests, and that the end of the Iraq-Iran war is a positive factor toward a solution for the Palestinian problem.

['Abd al-Baqi] Do you think the intifadah has effected changes in the Israeli position or among the Israelis?

[Al-Husayni] Indubitably. Even Shamir himself has changed. Shamir used to say that Camp David is against the Israeli people's interests. Now he demands the implementation of Camp David. Therefore, there is a change from top to bottom. However, this change is not enough to reach drastic solutions to the region's crisis. Had this change been sufficient, we would have attained peace.

['Abd al-Baqi] Have you met any Israeli administration official?

[Al-Husayni] In fact the only contact I had was with Shmu'el Goren, who is reponsible for the occupied areas. He met with me only once.

['Abd al-Baqi] How do you view a confederation with Jordan?

[Al-Husayni] We believe that we are part of Bilad al-Sham [Greater Syria], that we must coexist within the Arab grouping. No doubt, the future will witness some kind of cooperation after we realize our right to freedom and after ending the occupation.

['Abd al-Baqi] The PLO insists on the international conference. As you said, the U.S. Administration has so far not reached this conviction. Is there a possibility that once free elections are held you will accept some framework other than the international conference in order to break the deadlock?

[Al-Husayni] We demand a free state and self-determination. If we can realize these demands with sufficient guarantees without an international conference, there is nothing to prevent us from accepting this. However, we believe that the international conference will give us the guarantees that are acceptable to us.

['Abd al-Baqi] How do the brothers in the occupied areas assess the Arab support outside the occupied territory?

[Al-Husayni] We are grateful for any Arab support. However, we must say that the Arab support outside the occupied territory is not enough and we hope to receive further support on all levels.

'Abd Rabbuh on U.S. Position, Elections

JN1204151089 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 11 Apr 89 p 29

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Palestinian delegation to the talks with the United States, by Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Barqawi] Let us begin with recent developments. What is your response to Shamir's proposals on holding elections on the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

['Abd Rabbuh] Shamir has not come out with anything new during his visit to the U.S. capital. The ideas that he presented on elections are the same rotten fish in a new wrapper. Such ideas will not lead to any progress; they are ideas from the pre-intifadah [uprising] age and call for a return to that age. So, how can we accept them after all the changes that our people's intifadah has brought about inside Israel itself?

Shamir's plan attempts to divert attention from the main issue. It is an exposed attempt to flirt with European and U.S. public opinion by proposing schemes of a phony democratic character under the slogan of elections, while they are no more that maneuvers that fall behind the existing reality. Our people will not accept division into those inside and outside [the occupied territories] and will not give up their rights under the slogan of the so-called limited internal role under continued Israeli occupation.

[Al-Barqawi] So far, two rounds of talks have been held with the United States; what strategy will the PLO adopt in the future?

['Abd Rabbuh] We will continue to pursue our previous strategy. We are continuing the struggle on many fronts, and the intifadah is not for bargaining; it is a way of life for our people until the end of occupation. We will also continue the struggle on many different political fronts. The Palestinian peace initiative is the only plan based on international legitimacy and enjoys broad, comprehensive support even in Israel and the United States.

The United States is trying to waste time in hopes of exhausting the Palestinian people and fragmenting the political gains that they have been able to achieve. But it seems that neither the United States nor Israel understands that this maneuver—the so-called elections—will not be accepted by any Palestinian and is an attempt that has been exposed by international groups. During our meeting with three EEC foreign ministers a few months ago, they themselves talked about this plan and labeled it a stillborn initiative.

[Al-Barqawi] Do you believe there has been a development in the American stand during Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's visit to Washington?

['Abd Rabbuh] Of course there are new outlines, particularly with regard to ending the occupation. However, America is still not clear on its stand on this point and the political measures and moves that are required. I specifically mean the agreement on beginning preparations for convening the international conference as well as a frank response to the PLO's proposals and the proposals presented by the USSR during Shevardnadze's recent tour of some Arab capitals.

America is still speaking ambiguously about the Palestinian people's political rights, while the entire world is unanimous that these political rights mean only self-determination.

Although Shamir is defining the elections within the framework of the Camp David plan that calls for autonomy, the United States is also speaking about this subject with a kind of generalization and fogginess. This attempt will move the situation back 100 steps. We believe that there is no problem in defining who represents us. The intifadah has clarified the Palestinian people's option. There is one address and one voice only—that is, the PLO. The attempt to divide our people is no more than a dream of our enemies. And our people's rights are the same inside and outside the occupied territory.

It seems that the Israeli-American plan is an attempt to drag us into discussing secondary details. We informed America that now is not the appropriate time to discuss any details. The details can be discussed at the negotiating table of the international conference. What we should do now is to discuss the bases and framework of the peace process. And we have definite, tangible proposals in this regard. Meanwhile, America is trying to evade this issue by every possible means.

[Al-Barqawi] Does this explain America's desire not to convene the international conference at an early time?

['Abd Rabbuh] So far, the United States has not been seeking ways to resolve the crisis; it is trying to freeze what it can. And this is the meaning of the proposals dealing with creating a climate of confidence, appropriate atmosphere, and similar terms.

We clearly informed America that we want to create an appropriate climate, and therefore we had presented the Palestinian peace intiative. Meanwhile, the other side only presented more intransigence.

[Al-Barqawi] Despite two rounds of Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, it seems that the gap remains wide between the two sides, especially since the United States still insists on not establishing an independent state.

['Abd Rabbuh] The United States calls for taking small steps to start, without being committed to the final goal of settlement.

We in the PLO call for determining the final goals of settlement, including the people's right to self-determination and establishing their independent state. These are the elements included in the Palestinian peace initiative—nay, included also in the resolutions of international legitimacy. After determining these final goals, the timetable, the successive stages to the solution, and its framework can be set through convening the international conference. At this moment, there are two contradicting starting points: the U.S. proposals' starting point, which seeks to freeze the crisis, and the Palestinian starting point, which is working toward finding a means for the just and permament solution.

[Al-Barqawi] Mubarak and Shamir visited Washington and, on the 19th of the current month [April], King Husayn will likewise visit the U.S. capital. On 12 May, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will meet with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze. What can be expected of these political activities?

['Abd Rabbuh] It is obvious that the United States is working to decrease the size of the Palestinian victories, because it cannot formulate its policy in isolation from the increasing effects of the intifadah and the sympathy shown by many international forces, such as the EEC stand, the stand of the Jews in the United States itself, and of those calling for a policy based on recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. The United States cannot blindfold itself to the fact that the intifadah has created a crisis in Israel, which is constantly increasing and has left a strong mark on world public opinion, including that inside the United States. All this has led to changes in U.S. policy.

However, it seems that the Americans are playing the game of biding their time. We told them that this is not in the interests of the United States or the permanence of the Israeli occupation. We told them what the Arabic proverb says: Courage is patience for 1 hour. We have been patient for over 40 years and have the capacity to continue the struggle patiently until we retrieve our rights. We have before us an exceptional chance, and we will not miss this opportunity.

[Al-Barqawi] Do you believe a third round of talks is looming? And are there indications about the date of this meeting and the topics it will discuss?

['Abd Rabbuh] The third round will be held within weeks. However, we do not see these talks going on forever. We view the dialogue with the United States as a preparation for negotiations within an international conference. On the other hand, we posed a number of questions to the U.S. Administration, to which we expect answers at the next session.

[Al-Barqawi] Do you expect the negotiators to be upgraded? And will the next meeting be held in Tunis also?

['Abd Rabbuh] These two issues are within the questions posed to the U.S. Administration. We are awaiting answers to them.

[Al-Barqawi] Do you believe that the PLO has gone as far as it should in its dialogue with the United States?

['Abd Rabbuh] Yes, we do. We made the most appropriate proposals. We proposed the presence of international forces [in the West Bank and Gaza] and explained our stands clearly and frankly. Stemming from the Palestinian peace initiative, we are working for negotiations within the framework of an international conference and preparing for such a conference within several months.

[Al-Barqawi] If the United States asks or proposes to the PLO the deployment of U.S. forces if the Israeli forces are pulled out, what will the FLO stand be?

['Abd Rabbuh] This problem concerns various international blocs and groupings. West Europe is closer to the Middle East than the United States, and so is the Soviet Union. Palestine is the linking point between Asia and Africa, which are the Nonaligned Movement's concentration. This means that we proposed a united formula [sentence as published].

[Al-Barqawi] Let us move to internal Palestinian issues. Do you believe that the PLO Central Council's choosing of Yasir 'Arafat as president of the Palestinian state has any political significance?

['Abd Rabbuh] Certainly. This choice, in addition to being a recognition of Brother Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] leadership of the PLO and the Palestinian struggle movement, has a significant political meaning. It emphasizes our commitment to the proclamation of the State of Palestine and affirms that there can be no solution unless the State of Palestine practices its sovereignty on Palestinian territory.

This means that there is but one choice. This step is part of the process to complete the establishment of the constitutional institutions of the Palestinian state inside and outside the occupied territories. It comes as a logical and practical supplement, even though there has been a delay in the formation of the provisional government for some time. The Palestine National Council [PNC] stated that the PLO Executive Committee will continue its duties in its capacity as a provisional government.

[Al-Barqawi] Then it is not a ceremonial choice?

['Abd Rabbuh] Its political meaning is deeper than many ceremonial aspects. We could have done without these ceremonial issues, but there are political objectives behind this step.

[Al-Barqawi] A joint political statement was issued by Fatah and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. It is also believed that another meeting will take place between Fatah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine on the course of national unity. Have these steps come in time?

['Abd Rabbuh] Actually, the statement came to crown the dialogue within the framework of the PLO Central Council. It also came after dialogues between the two factions. The statement asserts that any differences that have occurred in viewpoints do not affect the unity of stands on the PLO's political trend, which is included in the PNC's resolutions and the Palestinian peace initiative, on whose bases victories and gains were accomplished.

There may be differences on some means of expression or in daily tactical stands; and this is natural. We [in the DFLP] do not differ in our viewpoints from the PLO's mainstream; in fact, our viewpoints are identical.

The joint statement explained the emphasis of the identical viewpoints on the need to continue the Palestinian peace attack. It also explained the full assertion of Shevardnadze's initiative on the preparation for convening the international conference, the call for convening an Arab summit, and the establishment of quintuple Arab coordination among the concerned Arab states.

This is in addition to the fact that it asserted that our struggle will continue until our national goals are achieved. It also asserted that endeavors to provide all means of support and backing to the intifadah to achieve these objectives will continue.

This provides the clear answer that the main line of all resistance factions within the framework of the PLO is united and that any attempt to show the differences as major contradictions threatening national unity is completely failing and illusory.

[Al-Barqawi] Where have the attempts to normalize Palestinian-Syrian relations reached?

['Abd Rabbuh] There is meaningful development on this. The brothers in Algeria, as well as in another friendly country, are exerting efforts to reach a Palestinian-Syrian dialogue as soon as possible. For our part, we encourage—in fact, welcome—it because it is a necessity at this stage, which is witnessing political consultations on a large scale to tackle the Middle East issue. This situation requires a normalization of Palestinian-Syrian relations; a commencement of dialogue on pressing issues, particularly the preparation for the international conference; and a coordination of positions among the Arab countries involved in this conference, particularly Palestine and Syria.

The time is inappropriate for any party to stress controversial issues. The resolutions issued by the Arab summits constitute a basis and starting point for discussions.

The most recent resolutions were issued by the intifadah summit in Algiers. Common interests also call for confronting the American-Israeli maneuvers through a unified Arab stand.

[Al-Barqawi] Brother Abu 'Ammar said in his Land Day address that there are Arab hands obstructing the march of the Palestine question. Is there a clarification?

['Abd Rabbuh] There is no need for a clarification; we are not concerned about names, but political positions. A resolution adopted by the Algiers Arab summit calls for embarking on a unified Arab endeavor to support the intifadah. This is considered a priority on the political level. There are also Palestinian proposals for coordination among the five confrontation states. All this is aimed at placing the weight and influence of the Arab homeland in the ongoing political battle.

There is no doubt that some parties are trying to belittle the Arab stand. There are stands that prefer waiting for the major powers to define a formula and a framework for the international conference as well as a basis for its convening without our intervention, despite the fact that, before anybody else, we are the concerned parties.

There are stands also that try to belittle the importance of the Palestinian victories and cast doubts on the advantage of the present Palestinian policy and peace initiative, although daily realities affirm that this policy is forcing its way and harvesting more gains for the cause of the Palestinian people and for the overall Arab stand. We call for comprehensive Arab solidarity. We adopt an open-door policy and extend our hand to all Arab countries out of our commitment to the resolutions issued by the Arab summits.

Nabil Sha'th Cited on Talks in New York

PM1004131689 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Apr 89 p 8

[Interview with Dr Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Mahmud Bakri; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Bakri] First of all, how would you assess your recent visit to New York, and what are the most notable results of your meetings there?

[Sha'th] The visit was successful, since it opened to us the doors to information and academic institutions. I was invited by the Foreign Relations Center of New York, the National Press Center, and a large number of important U.S. magazines. This granted us access to and enabled us to talk directly with a huge U.S. audience, as happened during the political program "Night Line," watched by 60 million viewers. And of course these are media organs that would cost hundreds of millions of dollars to buy.

Our basic objectives behind this information offensive were first, to deepen Palestinian peace ideas, and second, to protect the intifadah [uprising]. The visit also provided an opportunity to meet with a large number of U.S. senators, though Congress was the major institution against us in the past. I believe that I played a part in making the senators' meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens a stormy one, since customarily any important Israeli visitors are presented with a traditional petition expressing support for Israel signed by 60-80 U.S. senators, but this time the petition was signed by only 14 senators.

[Bakri] Did you make any contacts with U.S. Administration officials during the visit?

[Sha'th] No direct contacts took place on that, since U.S. Administration instructions indicate that contacts be made only via its ambassador in Tunis.

[Bakri] How far can the latest round in the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue be said to reflect positive U.S. stances?

[Sha'th] The U.S.-Palestinian dialogue began for the first time to assume a serious form during the round held on 22 March. The dialogue developed to cover fundamental questions that were not broached during the previous rounds of dialogue or during the meetings held at the ambassadorial level.

[Bakri] But what is the secret behind the change in the U.S. position on this?

[Sha'th] In fact, on the first day of the Road To Peace conference in New York on 11 March, I strongly attacked the U.S. Administration and accused it of reneging on its commitments. I also accused it of backtracking. I said that it was not the first time that the U.S. Administration had abandoned its promises. It undertook before the whole world to conduct a far-reaching dialogue with the PLO, but has backtracked. This is because, until that time, the dialogue had not been a fundamental one. Furthermore, I said that the United States has begun to the use the dialogue issue as a means of practicing blackmail.

[Bakri] What were the most notable disputed issues that emerged during the recent round of dialogue?

[Sha'th] Of course, there is still the U.S. insistence on halting fedayeen operations across the borders. And we have a clear position on this, namely, that the implementation of this point must coincide with Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories in Lebanon, the cessation of Israeli raids on the Palestinian camps and Lebanese towns, and an end to the operations to kidnap civilians from ships sailing via Lebanese ports. These are some of the minimum conditions for a halt to military operations. There are other points of disagreements over the steps to a solution.

The Americans are talking about holding elections, and obviously we are for any democratic elections. But we are not for any elections held under occupation for the purpose of keeping our people occupied, halting the intifadah, and distract them with an operation designed to drag them into internal conflicts. It is possible that we would accept a referendum on self-determination, but it could only happen after Israel's withdrawal and its forces' replacement by UN forces, so that we can hold the referendum ourselves. As for the idea of holding elections to determine who will talk on the Palestinians' behalf, it is rejected. And we unequivocally reject all demands for an easing of the intifadah. [passage omitted]

[Bakri] In view of current developments, what is your conception of an acceptable solution?

[Sha'th] The acceptable solution is the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. This, in addition to a just solution to the problem of the refugees and their right to repatriation and to achieve security and peace for their new state and all the states in the region. I believe there is a positive development stemming from the pincer effect of the intifadah—the main line—on the one hand and the Palestinian peace line on the other. And between the hammer of the intifadah and the anvil of the PLO peace line, an acceptable solution can actually be forged. [passage omitted]

PLO-Israeli Meeting in Vienna Postponed

AU1304084489 Vienna NEUE KRONEN ZEITUNG in German 13 Apr 89 p 12

[Unattributed report: "Israeli-PLO Peace Dialogue in Vienna Postponed"]

[Text] The political sensation had already been planned in detail; however, it was canceled last night at the eleventh hour. The spectacular peace meeting between the PLO leadership and Israeli parliamentarians, scheduled to take place in Vienna today, was postponed, because the parties concerned failed to reach agreement on a final document that PLO chief 'Arafat intended to present to the public in Vienna. Such a meeting had been scheduled to take place in Salzburg weeks ago. However, the obstacles on both sides are apparently larger than the readiness for dialogue of the moderate forces.

Communist Party Claims South Lebanon Attack

JN1204175789 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1731 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] The Revolutionary Palestinian Communist Party has issued the following military communique:

The martyr Fahid 'Awwad group on the night of 12 April 1989 attacked a joint position of the Zionist enemy and agent Lahd forces, as well as a radar station in the hills of 'Ayn Qinba, which it attacked with missiles and automatic weapons. It caused many injuries in the enemy ranks. The group managed to return safely.

'Arafat Message on 17th Month of Intifadah

JN1004205289 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1811 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Message of "greetings and appreciation" from Palestinian State President Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, to the intifadah—uprising—people on the occasion of the start of the intifadah's 17th month]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Verily, we have ganted you a manifest victory: That God may forgive you your faults of the past and those to follow; fulfill His favor to you; and guide you on the straight way; and that God may help you with powerful help. [Koranic verse].

O children of the blessed and gigantic intifadah [uprising], O steadfast people in the camps of steadfastness and pride, O sons of our Palestinian people inside the homeland and in the diaspora: You are today entering the 17th month of the intifadah. Victory has become a stone's throw away. Jerusalem and the Palestinian state are a stone's throw away. Our occupying Israeli enemy is surrounded on all sides and has no outlet other than full withdrawal from our occupied Palestinian territory. It has no choice before it other than complete and final surrender to the legitimate rights of our Palestinian people.

The 16th month witnessed the people's greatest heroism in confronting the oppressive occupying forces. It revealed to the whole world that the occupying enemy's attempts to deceive world public opinion are useless. The Border Guard forces, which committed bestial and incredible acts in the Gaza Strip and in front of the Shaykh Radwan district mosque, revealed the Israeli schemes and the oppressive measures that are chasing the mirage of annihilating the intifadah, which caresses the imagination of the terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir. This they do in vain.

The violent confrontations that took place in the Gaza Strip, the camps, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron, and Nabulus throughout the 16th month have clearly confirmed the proof that the intifadah masses are clinging to the initiative and are controlling the arena of confrontation. They are today, as usual, even more prepared to sacrifice in the battle of the last quarter hour to get rid of the despised Israeli occupation and for the dawn of the Palestinian day of liberty, the day when the stone heroes in our sweet land and their brothers, the heroes of the RPG in southern Lebanon, hoist the flag of the State of Palestine over Jerusalem's minarets, churches, and walls.

Because of this popular Palestinian epic and this mythical steadfastness, the whole world stands in appreciation and veneration of its makers and heroes. The Palestinian triumphant march moves forward, filled with confidence that this Palestinian steadfastness in the face of the fiercest occupation force has started to yield its sweet fruit on a line parallel with that of the intifadah, which is recording our national history with the blood of the martyrs and the sacrifices of thousands of our sons, women, children, and elderly. On a parallel line with the steps of this blessed intifadah and this epic steadfastness, our people are edging forward confidently and solidly on various levels, achieving victory after victory.

The epic has proven that the pure Palestinian blood, the blood of the martyrs and wounded, the pains of prisoners and detainees, and the faith and the sacrifices of the people are more powerful than the enemy's belligerence and weapons. It has also proven that Palestinian justice is today conquering Israeli injustice and that the call for freedom is stronger than the occupation.

My beloved, makers of this glory and history, the Israeli enemy has lost its balance before your steadfastness and sacrifices. Its international pillars have been shaken while confronting your faith and intifadah. It stands today isolated and alone, against the international will, against international legitimacy, and against the international trend that is increasing in its support for our just cause and legitimate, honest, and faithful struggle. The eternal truth of our people's desire for freedom, life, peace, and justice has been ascertained. The course of events today imposes on the course and concepts of the reality on the ground the inevitable victory of our people's revolutionary march.

O my brothers and beloved, O heroes of the intifadah, O sons of our heroic and struggling people—children, men, and women—our detested Israeli enemy has attempted in all ways to break the blessed intifadah. It used its criminal iron fist and relied on all terrorist means. It tried in vain. The will of our people is stronger than all their weapons and possibilities. The solidity of our people is greater than all their conspiracies and maneuvers. Let the leaders of the whole world know:

Our people's decision is to continue this patient struggle, faithful resistence, and blessed intifadah until the occupation leaves our blessed land, never to return. Its political and media balloons, including the balloons of elections that it is trying to promote or impose on our people, will not pass. Our heroes—the heroes of the stones and the RPG; the Palestinian woman, guardian of our eternal fire; our people's heroic strugglers; and our men, the watchful eye over the Palestinian dream of liberty and independence—will not allow such conspiracies to pass or such balloons to fly over. Elections in the shadow of occupation are fully rejected.

Let the whole world know that the fate of our detested enemy's maneuvers is failure. Our people's intifadah is more powerful. Our people's will and faith are the stronger and more effective in confronting the occupation and its policy of oppression and injustice.

Struggling brothers, the will of your organization, the PLO, with all its factions and united forces, to continue the struggle until the Palestinian state is established on the homeland's territory, has been manifested, through most impressive images, in the PLO Central Council's meetings in fraternal Tunis. There, your Central Council decided to adopt new and additional steps to support our people's intifadah.

The united and free will that declared in our Palestine National Council [PNC] the establishment of the Palestinian state has today taken new steps forward to elect the president of the state and to entrust the PLO Executive Committee with the task of continuing to take charge of the provisional government's duties. This united will continues to achieve truths and victories in the Palestinian arena on the political, revolutionary, and struggle levels, until victory is achieved, with His will, and until the flag of independent Palestine is hoisted over Jerusalem, the eternal capital of our homeland.

Proceeding from all this, I declare, my beloved and brothers, in your name, O people of our struggling and heroic Palestinian people inside the occupied territories on the periphery of the homeland, and in the diaspora, I declare that your revolution is united, strong, and close in ranks. Strengthening this national unity is our way to victory. Closing ranks further is our means to liberty. Organization, organization, and yet again organization is our strongest weapon in confronting the enemy. Therefore, more solidarity, more unity, and more organization.

O my brothers in the Unified Leadership, my beloved in the strike forces, makers of history in the popular committees, struggling frameworks in the popular institutions in which the people are enrolling—the whole people: Women, children, men, workers, peasants, students, academicians, workers, traders, and owners—move with God's blessing. Move forward with your blessed intifadah and your epic and mythical steadfastness from one victory to another. Be confident that your revolution continues until final victory is achieved, which we achieve through you, your struggle, and your sacrifices.

O steadfast people in every inch of these revolutionary and struggling parts where the Palestinian child, woman, and man are present through this revolutionary pioneering Palestinian experience, supported by the masses of your Arab nation, the liberated and honorable, the world's peoples, nations, and effective forces, and your friends. And it was due from us to aid those who believed. [Koranic verse] If God helps you, none can overcome you. [Koranic verse] Revolution until victory.

Algeria

Merbah Discusses Relations With USSR Envoy

LD1104191289 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] The Algerian-Soviet bilateral relations and ways of consolidating them were the focus of the audience which Kasdi Merbah, head of the government, granted today to Vasiliy Taratuta, ambassador of the Soviet Union in Algeria.

The two sides reviewed, during this meeting which took place in a friendly atmosphere, bilateral relations and expressed their satisfaction at the level reached by these relations in the political, economic, commercial and financial fields. The two sides registered, at the level of cooperation, the possibility of especially expanding and consolidating the sectors of irrigation, heavy and light industry, health, and technical teaching.

Violent Incidents, Tension in El Milia

LD1204202289 Paris International Service in French 1800 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Excerpt] More incidents—violent this time—have taken place in El Milia, a town situated east of Algiers. A young man was killed on the evening of 8 April and tension continues on the spot. Clashes took place last March between the population and police following a football match. Claire Arsenaud-Lears reports from Algiers:

[Arsenaud-Lears] The small town of El Milia, situated 300 kms east of Algiers, has been the center of serious disturbances for 5 days. A 25-year old man was shot dead on 9 April by the security services which were called in as reinforcements while many arrests were under way. All started on 8 April by a quarrel when a young man was injured with a knife by the son of the security chief of the region. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Returns From Jordan, Comments on Visit

NC1304040989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2154 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo from Amman this evening after a brief visit to Jordan lasting several hours.

Upon his arrival, President Mubarak was received by Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning, and Dr Muhammad al-Razzaz, minister of finance.

Upon his return, President Mubarak was asked by journalists about the proposals King Husayn of Jordan will be taking with him during his forthcoming visit to Washington. Pointing out that he had briefed King Husayn on the whole situation, he replied: King Husayn is aware of all the discussions I held in the United States.

He said that he and King Husayn discussed Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's poposals, adding: After this, it is imperative that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat be contacted so as to crystallize the views.

Responding to a question as to whether the issue of elections in the West Bank and Gaza could be acceptable under specific circumstances, President Mubarak said that the PLO has no objections as some [PLO officials] have said this should be under international supervision and some others have said it should be under international supervision and with the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

He said: We want to know what the PLO's view is. Our current efforts are designed to help support the Palestinian cause. Responding to a question as to whether this means that his talks with King Husayn of Jordan had dealt with this subject, President Mubarak said: We discussed this subject.

Asked if Egypt accepts representing the PLO in negotiations with Israel, since Shamir rejects the convening of an international conference under the pretext of refusing to talk with the PLO, President Husni Mubarak said: Each party must negotiate on its own behalf because these negotiations affect destiny.

President Mubarak went on to say: Neither I nor King Husayn can take the place of the PLO. The PLO itself must attend the negotiations and speak its view, because the Palestinians are the owners of the land. Should the matter require any party to make concessions, they are the ones to decide on this, because they are the owners of the land. I do not own the land and cannot decide on concessions.

In the course of his reply to a question on the possibility of Egypt hosting a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo, President Mubarak said that Egypt supports and helps in anything that is conducive to peace and a comprehensive solution.

He said: We have no objection at all to helping to find a solution to the peace problem.

As to whether he will meet with Yasir 'Arafat soon, President Mubarak expressed his welcome to 'Arafat when he comes to Cairo. He said: I hope that 'Arafat will come tomorrow. It is necessary for him to come so as to get acquainted with the present situation. It is also necessary for him to meet with King Husayn and to hold a dialogue with him or to contact him. However, I prefer that they meet.

Mubarak Discusses Talks With Husayn, Economy

NC1204174989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—Concluding a field tour today, President Husni Mubarak asserted that Egypt's economy is healthy. He said: We are doing our utmost to improve the economic situation by best using our loans and resources for the welfare of the people. It was necessary, he said, to rebuild the tottering infrastructure of the sewage, water, telephone, factory, and road systems, so that the people can survive. Then we can create jobs for them, seek to renovate the utilities, and encourage foreign and national investment. He added: Most of our investment is national, and in order to encourage such investment, services such as roads, water, sewage, and railroads must be provided.

He pointed out that spending on the infrastructure during the first 5-year plan was more than all the spending on infrastructure in the previous 50 years. In his statements to journalists, the president noted the great improvement of the telephone service. He said that any citizen in Egypt can now contact anyplace in the world easily, adding: We have achieved a great leap forward in this respect.

As for the debt problem, the president said: The government is exerting every effort, and the people must work hard and pay attention to our circumstances. He stated that the population is increasing at the rate of 1.3 million per year, while the increase in income does not keep up with the population growth. Noting that this entails an increase in consumption, he called on every family to consider its ability to spend on its members so that the children will not grow up with psychological and social complexes.

He said that those who compare today's prices with the prices of 10 years ago must take into account the increase in international prices and the difference between the population growth and the increase in the area of the arable land. The increase in population, he added, has rendered our arable cultivated land inadequate.

He noted the increase in wheat prices, saying that last year's price of $96 a ton has now jumped to $150, while the price of bread has remained unchanged. Furthermore, he added, our consumption of wheat, which we seek to obtain from everywhere, has increased.

Replying to a question on his talks with King Husayn, President Mubarak said: Consultations between King Husayn and myself are continuing, as always. We constantly coordinate with each other for the sake of the Palestinian cause, as we do with our other brothers in the Arab nation. This is a routine process.

On whether Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine, will join his meeting today with King Husayn, Mubarak said: I know that Mr 'Arafat is now in Morocco, and I have nothing more to say in this respect.

Saying he would welcome 'Arafat's participation in these talks, the president stated: First I would have to ask the permission of King Husayn, and I do not believe he would say no. In any case, we welcome 'Arafat in Egypt and exert efforts with regard to the Palestinian issue, because it is an Arab cause.

Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's continued rejection of an international conference while Egypt adheres to it, President Mubarak said: The entire world has agreed on the international conference; it is not we who insist on holding it. We urge the convocation of the international conference and encourage all the parties that believe in the need to solve this problem [the Palestinian issue] to participate in this conference, so that we may settle this problem.

Questioning why Shamir is refusing the international conference, the president said: I want to know why Shamir is refusing so that I can argue with him and both of us can reach a solution. He added: I had suggested that I go to him. You all know the story. However, when he was asked in America, he said that he had invited President Mubarak but Mubarak rejected the invitation. This is unbecoming. However, I am sorry if I have closed all the doors for him but I do not like to beat around the bush.

Concluding his statements, President Mubarak called on every citizen to work to earn his living, and urged the parties to organize themselves in order to further our achievements. He said: We have indeed made great accomplishments, and we want everyone to help. The president also urged those who are waiting for jobs to look for any dignified work, noting that the government does not have adequate money and the government departments are crowded with employees.

Sidqi Returns From Baghdad ACC Meeting

NC1204170389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1628 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi returned to Cairo from Baghdad this evening after a 3-day visit during which he participated in the first meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council's Ministerial Commission, which comprises the prime ministers of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and the Yemen Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

The official delegation accompanying Dr 'Atif Sidqi also returned to Cairo with him. The delegation consisted of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy

and foreign trade; Ahmad Radwan, cabinet secretary general; and Ra'uf Ghunaym and Samih Darrar, ministers plenipotentiary in the Prime Minister's Office for Political Affairs.

Ethiopian Envoy Ends Visit, Leaves for Baghdad
NC1204060389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2136 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—Kassa Gebre, Central Committee member and secretary general of Ethiopia's ruling communist party [title as received], left Cairo for Baghdad tonight, following a 2-day visit to Egypt.

In a pre-departure statement, Kassa Gebre said that he is carrying a message from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The Ethiopian official said that he met in Cairo with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs and head of the joint Egyptian-Ethiopian committee, and discussed with him a number of issues of common concern, including peace in the Horn of Africa and bilateral ties.

Foreign Ministry Expresses Concern Over Namibia
NC1004202189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1258 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry has stated that Egypt is following the developments in northern Namibia with the utmost concern. It hopes that all parties will exercise self-restraint to enable the Namibian people to gain their independence within the time laid down by the UN plan. The source said Egypt believes that past events affirm the importance of the presence of the UN peacekeeping forces in Namibia and the need to increase the number of these forces so that they will be able to perform the task that has been assigned to them.

FRG Bundestag Official on Talks With Mubarak
NC1204155389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received the West German parliamentary delegation led by FRG Bundestag Vice President Heinz Westphal this morning. Attending the meeting at the Presidential Office were People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub; Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the People's Assembly; and the West German ambassador in Cairo.

Afterward, the West German delegation head said that they had discussed the Middle East issue, the progress of the peace process, and economic issues concerning Egypt. He added that they had also reviewed the results of the president's tour of Europe and the United States as well as the general situation in the wake of the Israeli prime minister's visit to the United States. He stated that President Mubarak had stressed the need to open a dialogue with the PLO to achieve peace in the Middle East.

The FRG official pointed out that the Israeli prime minister's proposals on holding elections in the occupied Arab territories are insufficient for reaching a durable peace in the region. He said that the delegation had discussed the economic situation in Egypt with President Mubarak, and that the delegation was left with a good impression of Egypt's efforts to reach a solution to the economic issue and the debt problem.

Witness Testifies in 'Egypt's Revolution' Case
NC1204202489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1607 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—The Supreme State Security Court finished its examination today of Brigadier General Fahd Najm from the state security service, the first witness in the Egypt's Revolution case. During examination by the public prosecution, the witness discussed the role of Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir [son of late President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir] in the case, as well as the role of the other defendants in the assassination of Israelis and Americans.

At the end of a 2 and ½ hour session, the court postponed the hearing until next Tuesday to continue examining the first witness. Replying to questions from the court and the public prosecution, the witness insisted that Mahmud Nur al-Din used to receive foreign funds from the Libyan intelligence service to finance the organization. The witness stated that Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir had provided the organization with money and supplied the organization members with some arms and ammunition. He said that 'Abd al-Nasir knew everything about the organization.

The witness reviewed some of the assassination operations that had been carried out and said that Ahmad 'Isam al-Din had confessed to him that both Hamadah Sharif and Nazmi Shahin had participated in the assassination of Atrakshi [Israeli Embassy official] and that the assassination of the Israelis at the exhibition was carried out by Mahmud Nur al-Din, Ahmad 'Isam, Nazmi Shahin, and Muhyi al-Din 'Adli Rajab.

He added that the assassination of the two Americans was carried out by Mahmud Nur al-Din and Hamadah Sharif.

The first witness disclosed that Ahmad 'Isam al-Din had confessed to him that the organization was planning to assassinate certain writers who attack the late President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, including, among others, Anis Mansur and Jalal Kishk, and that the organization was also planning to blow up some cars belonging to Israeli tourists.

He noted that the organization members used to spend money extravagantly after every operation they perpetrated.

The witness said that the organization members changed the organization's name from "The Organization of Egypt's Revolution" to "The Nasirite Organization of Egypt's Revolution," adding that this was evident in the signatures on the statements that they had distributed.

The witness affirmed that the information that defendant Ahmad 'Isam al-Din had given him about the organization is correct and that the veracity of this information has been substantiated by investigations and confirming events.

Arrests Reported for Protests Over Bread Price

JN1204154189 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 10 Apr 89 p 5

[By Nihad Muhammad]

[Text] The state security investigators during the past few days carried our arrest campaigns in various governorates of the republic in response to accusations of distributing pamphlets and inciting the citizens to demonstrate against increased bread prices. The state security investigators in Suhaj arrested Ahmad Abu al-Fadil Ahmad, Sulayman Muhammad, and Muhammad 'Abd al-'Awwad, all teachers in the Suhaj secondary school. They also arrested other citizens and accused them of distributing pamphlets and urging people to demonstrate against the rise in the price of bread.

The state security investigators in Port Said arrested Muhammad Mustafa 'Abd al-Fattah and Jamal al-Sharbini and accused them of distributing pamphlets against the rise in prices. The Cairo state security investigators arrested a law student at 'Ayn Shams University, Ra'if Ahmad Salim, as he was leaving the university last week. They accused him of distributing pamphlets. The detainees were referred to the higher state security prosecution, who ordered their release on bail. However, they were taken by surprise by a decision issued by the interior minister to continue their detention.

Shortages Spread to Villages

PM1304090489 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 10 Apr 89 p 6

[Mahmud Fawzi report: "Bread Lines Spread to Countryside"]

[Text] During a recent visit to the countryside, I witnessed incredible scenes: Lines of people shouting, crying, and issuing insults outside country bakeries. Can this happen in the villages—the source of wheat production? Is it not incredible? At the same time, wheat prices have increased from 30 to 110 pounds per ardeb, and flour prices have increased from 14 to 80 pounds per 100-kg sack, and is still difficult to obtain. This means that the bread crisis has moved from the cities to the villages—something which inspires both amazement and astonishment.

Has the Supply Ministry failed to import the wheat and flour that the county needs and, if so, why? Is it because of the shortage of foreign currency? Or is it because some of the states that supply wheat and flour are putting pressure on Egypt for political or economic reasons? And have the Supply Ministry's attempts to guarantee the people their essential food supplies failed since Bush assumed the U.S. Presidency?

'Imaginary Costs' Blamed for Bread Crisis

PM1204140789 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 10 Apr 89 pp 1, 6

[Article by Mustafa Kamil Murad under the rubric "The Opposition's Opinion": "Bread Crisis!!"]

[Excerpts] In the Egyptian streets, citizens can be clearly seen forming endless lines in front of the bakeries. The reason is that bread runs out at a particular time of the day, namely 0900. This is why many citizens are forced to leave their work or go to work late in order to obtain the bread they need. This even includes tax inspectors, as was shown during the television program that conveyed the problem from the masses with complete honesty-!!—something for which we cannot but thank Information Minister brother Safwat al-Sharif as well as brother Husayn 'Anan and those in charge of the television. This is because conveying the masses' problems through them directly is the essence of political work, indeed it is the broad base on which it thrives.

To return to the bread crisis, we can say that there are crowds in front of the bakeries, and the bakery's sale period does not exceed 2 hours, which means less supply and more demand. And less supply means less production. So does this mean there is a wheat and flour shortage? Is that why the bakeries are receiving smaller quantities? Reality confirms the opposite: Wheat is available in the quantities required. Besides, local bakeries are receiving their share in full, calculated on the basis that individual average daily consumption is four loaves. [passage omitted]

But what is the solution, and what is the Liberal Party's view of the bread crisis and the citizen's crowding in front of the bakeries? In our opinion the solution is simple and easy, namely ensuring that the baker makes no losses. In fact, he does not make any losses, since he compensates for his losses by reducing the weight of a loaf and selling the flour on the black market. And if we ask the baker his opinion, he will say that the government imposes the bakery workers' wages on him, in the sense that it sets a

price that has nothing to do with reality, since it determines the worker's wage at the rate of 37,5 piasters a sack when his real wage—and the government knows this—is 2 pounds a sack for the dough kneader and the baker and 1 pound for ancillary workers.

So one sack would cost some 10 pounds to bake, that is, ½ a piaster a loaf. If we added to this the other costs like electricity, fuel oil, water, yeast, and salt, baking, and delivery of bread, the cost will be 1.1 piasters a loaf. If we added labor costs, namely ½ a piaster, the loaf of bread would cost 1.6 piaster. Add to that the cost of the flour, namely 1.2 piasters, and the loaf would cost 2.8 piasters. [passage omitted]

So finally, it clear that the bread crisis is a crisis of imaginary costs, whether with regard to labor costs or general expenditure, as a result of which an imaginary price per loaf has been set. The subsidy does not reach those who need it most, but rather disappears when the flour is sold on the black market and when the loaf's weight is reduced. Besides, the bad distribution of bread is one of the important reasons behind the crowded lines. So, expanding the distribution base by, for instance, distributing bread among shops and cooperatives would lead the people to feel that bread was available and eliminate the citizen's feeling that there is a bread shortage, which is a serious phenomenon. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Senegalese Interior Minister Begins Visit 12 Apr

AB1204140889 Paris AFP in French 1313 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Nouakchott, 12 Apr (AFP)—Senegalese Interior Minister Andre Sonko arrived this morning in Nouakchott where he will be received during the day by the Mauritanian leader, Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, an official source indicated in the Mauritanian capital.

The Senegalese minister is also expected to meet with his Mauritanian counterpart, Colonel Djibril Abdalahi, as part of this visit, which comes 3 days after the bloody events of 9 April between Senegalese villagers and Mauritanian security forces on a small island in the Senegal River, which runs between the two countries. The clashes left two people dead and three injured, according to government press [words indistinct].

According to the first reports carried by the Senegalese opposition on 10 April, the clashes are said to have been caused by the straying of Mauritanian cattle onto the cultivated lands of the Senegalese. The Senegalese official (?press) reported these incidents only today.

According to reliable sources from the Senegalese Ministry of Interior, Mr Sonko will go to the Bakel area, the closest major town to the village of Diawara, where the incidents took place, on his return from Nouakchott.

Yesterday evening the Senegalese opposition announced the release of 13 Senegalese "hostages" detained in Mauritanian territory, a report which was confirmed this morning by a reliable source from the Ministry of Interior.

Morocco

PLO's 'Arafat Departs After Meeting Hassan

LD1204225389 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Excerpt] The president of the State of Palestine, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, left Morocco after a visit during which he was received by His Majesty King Hassan II. He was seen off at Rabat-Sala airport by his royal highness the crown prince, Sidi Mohamed. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Rebels Claim Capture of Akobo Garrison Town

EA1204172089 (Clandestine) Radio SPLA in English 1300 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The strategically important garrison town of Akobo fell to the Sudanese People's Liberation Army forces of Central Upper Nile yesterday, Tuesday, 11th April 1989 at 3 pm Sudan local time [1300 GMT] after 3 days of fighting under the overall command of Alternate Commander Peter Panon Panypiny.

Akobo is the district headquarters of Akobo District in Upper Nile administrative area and is situated on the Akobo River on the Ethiopian border. Akobo is the last garrison town to fall to the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] on the Ethiopian border. The SPLA has now cleared the international borders east of the River Nile in southern Sudan.

These border garrison towns captured by the SPLA are: Jokau, Nasir, Akobo, Pochala, Pibor and Humma on the Ethiopian border; Kapoeta on the Kenyan border; and Latukei, Bira, Sertenya, Ikotos, Farajok and Nimule on the Ugandan border. [music] [passage omitted]

The chairman and commander in chief SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]-SPLA has sent millions of revolutionary congratulations to Alternate Commander Peter Panon Panypiny, officers, noncommissioned officers, and men who participated in the capture of Akobo.

Meanwhile, the commander in chief has ordered all forces of Central Upper Nile stationed in Akobo and Fanjak Districts, forces of central southern Sudan and some other (?supplies) units to converge on Waat to capture it within the next 96 hours. Khartoum forces in Waat are here warned to withdraw within the 72 hours and are here assured that if they withdraw peacefully during this time limit, the SPLA will not attack them.

Army Says Situation in South Under Control
EA1304121589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Mirghani al-Nasri, member of the State Council, had a meeting at his office in the Republican Palace with General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, commander in chief of the Armed Forces this morning. After the meeting, the commander in chief said he briefed Mr al-Nasri on the security situation in the southern part of the country and in Kordofan Region. He said the Armed Forces were playing their patriotic role and that they were in control of the situation. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Comments on Garang Agreement
JN1204202589 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 11 Apr 89 p 17

[Interview with Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Husayn al-Tantawi in Jeddah—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Tantawi] After the formation of the new government, what measures have been taken to entrench the Sudanese peace agreement and stabilize the situation in the south?

[Al-Husayn] This is an important question. The United National Front's government was originally formed on the basis of a program that was signed before it was formed. It was called the phased program and included specific things to be implemented during this phase. At the head of those things is to ratify the Sudanese peace agreement that was signed on 16 November 1988 between the Democratic Unionist Party and John Garang's movement.

Indeed, the first meeting of the Council of Ministers of this government adopted this phased program and approved it. It issued another resolution accepting the Sudanese peace initiative and a third to form a ministerial committee, whose tasks were specified—that is, to take all steps necessary to execute the initiative to reach a cease-fire and establish the preparatory committee for the National Constitutional Conference.

The ministerial committee for peace was convened under my chairmanship on the same day. Its meetings continued and gave priority to contacting John Garang's movement. Indeed, a ministerial delegation was sent to inform the movement in Addis Ababa of the decision to accept the initiative. The delegation carried the following documents:

—A letter from the prime minister to Colonel Garang in which he informed him of the acceptance of the initiative.

—A letter from the chairman of the ministerial committee for peace to Col Garang in which he informed him of the documents carried by the committee.

These documents confirm the acceptance of the initiative and included the government's decision to adopt the phased program, the Council of Ministers' decision to accept the intitiative, the Council of Ministers' decision to form the higher ministerial committee for peace, a copy of the prime minister's speech before the Constitutional Assembly and the Constitutional Assembly's decision on the peace agreement, and the agreement of the brothers in the south to choose their representatives in the central and regional governments.

The ministerial committee also decided to send envoys to the neighboring countries—Ethiopia, Egypt, Kenya, Uganda, and Saudi Arabia—to inform them of what has been agreed upon regarding the acceptance of the initiative. The committee decided to inform the Organization of African Unity, the Arab League, and the United Nations of the documents relating to the acceptance of the agreement.

As foreign minister I will invite the ambassdors accredited to Sudan and inform them of what has been achieved and show them a full dossier of these documents.

[Al-Tantawi] To what extent does the other party abide by the agreement?

[Al-Husayn] I followed up the agreement issue from August 1988 until it was signed in November 1989. It is clear the Garang movement also needs peace and they are very earnest in this. When we met with them in Addis Ababa in February 1989 to discuss the implementation of the agreement clauses at the request of the prime minister to make some clarifications, we found they are concerned about peace. This is necessary for them for many reasons. There is no need to mention these reasons.

The important thing is that after a brief time, the short-term program was agreed on and the government was formed.

We are confident that we can make no change in their stand. We will deal with any developments as they come. The other important thing is that this agreement is not a final peace agreement; it is a procedural agreement that opens the road before all Sudanese toward the negotiating table. This agreement allows all party forces, organizations, and unions to express their opinions on the shape of the government within the framework of the national constitutional conference. [passage omitted]

[Al-Tantawi] Some people say that the peace agreement will freeze the Islamic shari'ah laws. Is this correct?

[Al-Husayn] I have said that the framelike peace agreement is an entrance to direct debate among the Sudanese parties. What is accepted by the majority will be enforced. Sudan is an Islamic country and the Islamic laws are a basic thing in its system. Everything will be discussed within the national constitutional conference.

[Al-Tantawi] When will this conference convene?

[Al-Husayn] Envoys were dispatched to inform the [Garang] movement officially of the acceptance of the initiative. They will fix the date of the meeting of the ministerial peace committee with the John Garang movement to reach agreement on the necessary arrangements to form the preparatory committee, lay down its tasks, the timetable of its work, and the date of the cease-fire, and define the date of the national constitutional conference.

All Sudanese political forces will hold an expanded political meeting at the Al-Ummah Party headquarters to coordinate matters before the convening of the national constitutional conference. As you know, all political forces in the north have agreed on entrenching the appropriate formula for the unity of ranks and reinforcing political stability in the form of a United National Front government that gathers the majority of political, factional, and unionist sectors in Sudanese society.

MENA: New Constituent Assembly Speaker Elected

NC1204191589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Apr (MENA)—At its meeting today, the Sudanese Constituent Assembly unanimously elected Faruq 'Ali al-Barbar as its speaker in the place of Yusuf Muhammad Yusuf, who submitted his resignation upon the withdrawal of the Islamic Front from the government.

It is known that Faruq 'Ali al-Barbar is a lawyer who graduated from the Law Faculty in Cairo in 1961. He was sentenced to life imprisonment during former President Numayri's tenure.

The deputies of the Islamic Front boycotted today's Constituent Assembly meeting in protest of the postponement of the discussion of the criminal code pending the convening of the constitutional conference.

Al-Turabi on 'Discontent' Over Afghan Decision

EA1204180489 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 12th April—The secretary-general of the National Islamic Front, NIF, Dr Hasan al-Turabi, has said Sudan's decision to recognise the government of the Afghan mujahidin was taken after consultation with the premier.

Commenting on discontent that arose among diplomats in the Foreign Ministry over the decision, Al-Turabi said circumstances like the convening of the Islamic countries organisation conference at the time had prompted the adoption of such a decision.

On the other hand, Al-Turabi - asked about NIF relations with Egypt - said no antagonism exists between the NIF and Egypt. On the contarary, relations are good.

Japanese To Help Pay for Transport of Relief

OW1104063389 Tokyo KYODO in English 0031 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Tokyo, April 11 KYODO—Japan will grant 400 million yen in aid to pay for the transport of relief goods for people suffering from a famine in Sudan, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

The ministry said the aid will help the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Program (WFP) to transport the relief goods.

Japan decided on the measures to meet a request by the organizations to help transport the relief goods to southern Sudan where over two million people are facing starvation in a famine caused by an internecine war. Japan granted 140 million worth of crackers in urgent aid to the African country last month.

Tunisia

Composition of Party Political Bureau Announced

LD1204123189 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali conferred this morning at the Republican Palace in Carthage with Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and Aberrahim Zouari, general secretary of the Domestic Constitutional Rally. After the meeting Mr Zouari announced that the chairman of the Rally [President Ben Ali] has decided the composition of the Political Bureau as follows:

Deputy chairman of the Rally: Hedi Baccouche

General secretary of the Rally: Abderrahim Zouari

Treasurer of the Rally: Abdallah Kallel

Members:

Hamed Karoui;

Abdelhamid Escheikh;

Chadli Neffati;

Habib Boulares;

Ismail Khelil;

Mohamed Ghannouchi;

Hamouda Ben Slama.

JANA Notes Jallud Meeting With Ben Ali

LD1304010989 Tripoli JANA in English 1449 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Tunis, Al-Tayr [April] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr Ben Ali, president of sisterly Tunisia received last night in Carthage Palace Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud and Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi. Present at this meeting was the Tunisian premier, Mr Baccouche.

Following this meeting, Staff Major Jallud commenting to pressmen, says that he was happy to meet President Ben Ali and the meeting was fraternal. We, he adds, as usual have seen President Ben Ali up to the level of the historic missions. We have found him very responsive and [words indistinct] to the follow-up supreme committee placing a variety of questions that will help this committee carry out its job entrusted to it.

When I meet him, he continues, I feel the hopes we cherish and the aspirations he embodied in the principal starting-points of the 7th November. They are the starting-points of our people in Tunisia.

Staff Major Jallud adds that there exists a will between the two leaderships inspired by the aspirations and concerns of the one Arab people to achieve a unity between the two countries because the bilateral unity between them contributes to the unionist action in the Arab Maghreb and the unionist action at the level of the Arab nation.

He adds we are together now that the will of the Arab people in Tunisia has been liberated since 7th November thereby having the Arab people in great Al-Jamahiriyah and in Tunisia act in unison in good or bad days, for there exists between them no psychological or border barriers. The movement of contact and the transfer of [word indistinct] confirmed by the Jamahiri people's movement.

We feel that the masses in the two countries have preceded us embodying the unity in that we see in (?both) Tunisia and the west of Libya the one Arab people has been fused fully. No one could differentiate between them. It is a beautiful picture that we must deepen.

We feel now that we have taken the right direction to consolidate our unity to enable the one Arab people in the two countries to assume its role in building the unity of Arab Maghreb, the unity of the Arab nation, thereby consolidating the pan-Arab identity and the Islamic identity because Islam is the one of the masses and the people down in the streets.

Those who want to draw a distinction between Arab nationalism and Islam are influenced by the Western culture. Islam is nationalism and the reverse holds true. Drawing a distinction between them is a grand conspiracy against Islam and against the Arabs because those who do so are influenced by Western culture.

He adds we are happy to see the masses in great Al-Jamahiriyah and in Tunisia have consolidated unity. We must deepen these concepts, deepening, legitimizing and making them into law. We must also monitor the movement of the masses in Ras Ijdir and Ben Qirdan [names as received] because the masses now are creating unionist models and beautiful unionist pictures where regionalism is abolished.

This beautiful picture has to be studied by us as if the masses were telling us 'this is the unity we aspire for' where the interests interact. So are the human hobnobbing and the movement of transport. [sentence as received] It is a beautiful picture made before us by the masses. It has imposed on us a necessary exigency. There is no way for the two countries except this unionist direction.

Kuwait

KUNA Cites Charges Against 33 Suspects

LD1304074489 Kuwait KUNA in English 1315 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Kuwait, April 12 (KUNA)—Head of State Security Court chancellor 'Abd al-Hayy al-Bana'i said the court next May 13 will look into the state-security-related case involving 33 suspects, 18 of whom are Kuwaitis.

The first hearing will be open and procedural and the public as well as press reporters will be allowed to attend provided they obtain in advance entry permits from court secretary. [passage omitted]

The state security prosecutor directed the following charges to the suspects:

First: Involvement in outlawed groups that drive at destroying the basic systems unlawfully, including forceful undermining of the existing social and economic systems, being aware of what they were doing.

Second: Organizing and calling for joining the above-mentioned outlawed groups.

Third: (A) Public instigation for overthrowing the existing regime in the country by writing, drawing and photographs and preparation of leaflets abetting the public to change the regime by force.

(B) Calling for embracing ideologies that aim at demolishing the basic systems in Kuwait through illegal means.

(C) Public undermining of his highness the amir and the country's political regime by leaflets.

Fourth: Involvement in the said crimes by [word indistinct] agreement and assistance.

Fifth: Disclosure of one of the country's defence secrets.

Sixth: Involvement in criminal agreement aiming at assassinating a number of public figures.

Seventh: Robbery of public funds.

Saudi Arabia

Paper Urges Support for Mujahidin Government

JN1304112289 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 11 Apr 89 p 3

[Editorial: "Afghan Mujahidin Government and the Required Support"]

[Text] Moscow still holds to Najibullah's communist regime despite the Afghan people's rejection of his government, the escape of thousands from Kabul to other Afghan cities and neighboring countries, and the mass desertions from the ranks of the Kabul regime's forces.

Najibullah dreams of retaining power because its splendor and Moscow's promises have blinded him. This splendor has become irresistible to him. Najibullah has rejected the Afghan mujahidin's pledges to forgive him if he transferred power to their government, which has been elected to stop the bloodshed, which is needed for the reconstruction of what the Soviets have destroyed in Afghanistan. This rejection explains the lust for power by Najibullah and his clique.

The mujahidin have rejected Najibullah's participation in their government because the Afghan people are against Najibullah, communism and their symbols, whether they are Afghans or people from any other state. This rejection is supported by all the people. So Najibullah's adherence to power is not supported by anyone except the Soviets only because of their private interest and not that of the Afghan people.

The mujahidin, who have continued their struggle for 10 years against the Soviet occupation and its soldiers and against the agent government in Kabul, will not stop the struggle until the fall of the Kabul regime. The Afghan people will not be merciful to this regime which has caused so much bloodshed after the departure of the Soviet occupier.

The whole world is called upon to boycott this regime and exert pressure on it to make it give up power. All countries in general, and Islamic countries in particular, are called upon to close the embassies of the Kabul regime, recognize the mujahidin government, and exchange with it diplomatic representation.

What is required is more than that; namely, the expulsion of Najibullah's regime from the United Nations and giving its seat to the government of the Afghan mujahidin. This government should have Islamic support on all levels because the mujahidin today need all the support they can get.

The USSR is giving political and military support to the communist government of Najibullah. The withdrawal from Afghanistan does not mean that the USSR has abandoned its dreams, merely changing the tools of implementation. Instead of realizing its dreams in Afghanistan with Soviet troops, the USSR wants to implement them by using its Afghan agents represented by Najibullah's government.

What is required now is an Islamic and international political and military support for the mujahidin goverment equal to USSR's support for Najibullah. Furthermore, what is required is pressure on Moscow to make it stop its support for the agent regime, take its hands off Afghanistan, and leave the Afghan people to choose their own government.

Yemen Arab Republic

Prime Minister Returns from Baghdad Meetings

JN1204194389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Excerpt] 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, and the accompanying delegation returned to Sanaa this evening after attending the meetings of the first session of the Arab Cooperation Council Ministerial Council, which was held in Baghdad 10-20 April [as heard].

The prime minister was received by Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member; Brigadier General Mujahid Abu Shawarib, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member; and a number of brother ministers and senior officials. [passage omitted]

Talks Seen Promoting Progress Toward Unity

PM1304135589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Apr 89 p 1

[Zaki Musa report: "Yahya al-'Arashi Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Sanaa and Aden Discussed Unification of Consular Work"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—YAR Unity Minister Yahya al-'Arashi has announced that the meetings held in Sanaa over 2 weeks ago—during which the Aden delegation was headed by Prime Minister Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man and the YAR delegation was headed by Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani—produced a number of agreements and formulas which are bound to push forward steps toward union between the two parts of Yemen.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Al-'Arashi said that among the issues discussed was the unification of consular work at the two Yemens' embassies abroad in order to facilitate expatriate needs and affairs, especially in the cities or areas which have a consulate for one of the two parts.

The Yemeni unity minister added that the meeting was held under the agreement concluded last Ramadan (May), which stipulates the reactivation of unionist action and committee activities. The results have been positive and have led to many steps toward union both by the unity committee and on the part of the committee concerned with the formation of political organizations under Clause IX. And committee members have been chosen.

He also said that the two leaderships in the two parts dwelt on the united state's draft constitution, and a number of decisions were taken on the economic, supply, and other levels, especially in the sectors dealing with oil as well as agriculture and fisheries.

Minister al-'Arashi pointed out that the question of facilitating commodity exchange procedures and handling the currency problem was also discussed.

Asked whether there was any inclination to announce a unified currency between the two parts, he said: This matter can be discussed in the future, but so far nothing has been decided in that regard.

He added that among the issues discussed were some of the difficulties resulting from the decision concerning the free movement of citizens. On the nature of those problems he said: Some procedures are applied in the southern part, such as the filling out of application forms by security men and the charging of fees to citizens. But he added that officials in the southern part showed understanding of the questions raised.

Minister al-'Arashi stated that the economic talks between the two sides have resulted in an inclination to establish a Yemeni fund for development, and that these ideas have been referred to the committees for consideration.

Asked whether the northern part's inclusion in the Arab Cooperation Council was discussed during Dr Yasin Nu'man's visit to Sanaa, the Yemeni minister said that there is mutual trust between officials in the two parts, whatever the conditions, and any step taken by one of the two parts within the framework of Arab action must be in the interests of united Yemen.

Bilateral ministerial meetings were held among the two parts, in which the foreign, unity, oil, economy, and information and culture ministers took part. They reviewed the issues of common interest.

He expressed his regret about the occurrence of further damage as a result of the floods still sweeping a number of governorates in the southern part. He said that the sons of the northern part sympathize with their brothers in their efforts to overcome the effects of the floods. They have been enthusiastic in organizing donation campaigns and sending medical aid, food, clothing, tents, and so on to ease the severity of the present conditions

'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad, Received by Saddam

JN1304122489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Apr (INA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Baghdad today. He was accorded a grand reception led by President Saddam Husayn. President Saddam Husayn embraced his guest at the plane ramp, welcoming and congratulating him on his safe arrival.

The president then accompanied his guest Mr 'Arafat to shake hands with senior officials receiving him. These were Revolution Command Council [RCC] members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, vice president; and Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

President Saddam Husayn and his guest Yasir 'Arafat mounted the podium and the Palestinian and Iraqi anthems were played. They then reviewed the guard of honor, which represented all corps of the Palestinian Armed Forces, while a 21-gun salute was given to the president of the State of Palestine.

Two children from Baghdad presented bouquets to President Saddam Husayn and his guest Yasir 'Arafat. 'Arafat then shook hands with officials receiving him, including RCC members, ministers, and the Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad.

National Assembly Speaker, Officials Elected

JN1204193989 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The National Assembly held its first session within its third term this morning. The session was begun by a recitation of verses from the holy Koran, after which the assembly members recited the opening chapter on the souls of the martyrs who fell in the glorious battle of Saddam.

'Inad Mi'jil Najras al-Ku'ud, in his capacity as the eldest National Assembly member, was sworn in and announced the inauguration of the session in his capacity as chairman of that session. Sa'id Hasan Najm al-Hashimi and Mansur Mustafa Shaykh Kakah were his assistants, because they are the youngest assembly members.

The chairman of the session delivered a speech in which he congratulated the National Assembly members on their winning the people's confidence to represent them at this new term of parliament, which is launched under the canopy of peace in the wake of the great victory realized under the leadership of the Arab nation's knight, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He indicated that this assembly has tasks besides its familiar tasks pertaining to the endorsement of legislation, providing opinions, conducting studies, and supplying legal advice. He added that this task pertains to the task of drawing up and endorsing a new constitution, a law on juveniles, and a law on journalism. He pointed out that the agenda of the first session includes two topics: first, the taking of the constitutional oath by the assembly members and, second, the election of the National Assembly speaker, his deputy, and a secretary through secret balloting.

The National Assembly members, with the exception of one who failed to attend because of illness, were sworn in according to the alphabetical order of their names. [passage omitted]

Afterward, the National Assembly speaker, deputy speaker, and secretary were elected. Sa'di Mahdi Salih was unanimously elected National Assembly speaker, while Ghanim 'Aziz Khuduri was elected deputy speaker and 'Abd al-Qadir 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Jinabi secretary.

In an opening speech, National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih affirmed that the experience of the National Assembly in its previous two terms were the beginning of a democratic course charted by our leader, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

He added that this experience reflected the genuineness of the principles cherished by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its revolution, which believe that man is the end and the means for bringing about creativity and making bountiful offerings with the aim of realizing the objectives of both the revolution and the people in the way of achieving a developmental, cultural, and human construction that is in keeping with the new historic responsibilities of Iraq and the Arab nation in their jihad and struggle to build their future in defense of their sovereignty, dignity, and realization of their legitimate human existence.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih added that the work phase of our current session is characterized by the need to have foreknowledge of future circumstances and to deal in a balanced manner with the issues dictated by the givens made available by victory and peace so that Iraq can continue its march forward.

He asserted that the revolution highlighted this trend by paving the road for you through decisions and measures that will facilitate your mission regarding the completion of the constitutional and precedural forms on the road of building democracy—the forms regarding the contributions to be made in preparing and drafting the permanent constitution, the law on the freedom of the press, and the law on the multiple party system, which comprise the basic tasks of this National Assembly term.

New Assembly Speaker Voices Allegiance to Saddam
JN1204205289 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Apr 89 89

[Cable from National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih to President Saddam Husayn on the occasion of the beginning of the third term of the National Assembly on 12 April]

[Text] Your Esteemed Excellency, President leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect you:

The National Assembly is holding its first session in its third term today in the Baghdad of Iraq, the Baghdad of Saddam Husayn, the Baghdad of Arabism, so we can chart our course under the canopy of peace and certain victory realized by the Iraqis through their free will and limitless determination, under the canopy of the growing enrichment of the march of construction, growth, and giving, and also under a new phase in which democracy will be further bolstered and in which the base of comprehensive popular participation will also be expanded.

Under the shadow of this giant and lofty march being led by the man of contemporary history, comrade struggler Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, and also under the principles of the great Ba'th Party, equality prevailed and justice reigned supreme as the Iraqis headed on 1 April in a demonstration of jubilation, happiness, and success to the election centers to elect their representatives. The outcome was the election of the great elite currently meeting [words indistinct].

O great leader, the current term of the National Assembly, which was launched in the beginning of April, the month of wellbeing and giving, the month of the blessed birth of the party and its leader, coincides with the birth of the Arab Cooperation Council, which has come about as an embodiment of the Arab nation's will in the way of realizing its unity, freedom, and socialism.

Today, we stand as one man voicing the pledge of faith, affection, and sincerity, undertaking to place all of our abilities and capabilities at the disposal of the great people who have granted us their confidence. We are proceeding toward serving the people. We are also determined to serve great Iraq. Our efforts in this regard will be guided by the resolve of the courageous leader, Saddam Husayn. We will cooperate to achieve this. May God bless our efforts.

Pride and dignity belong to Iraq and its people! We voice our appreciation and respect to our Army, the forger of epics and feats of heroism. May mercy and forgiveness be the lot of our righteous martyrs. Long live you, the great leader! We beseech Almighty God to make you live long, as you are the heavenly gift to earth sent to help regain the Arab nation's previous glory and pride. It is God who grants success.

[Signed] Sa'di Mahdi Salih, National Assembly speaker

INA: Arab Council Prime Ministers Depart
JN1204155089 Baghdad INA in English 1415 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 12, INA—The Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad this afternoon after taking part in meetings of the ministerial Commission of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) that were concluded here today.

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi described results of meetings of the ministerial commission as positive and following the road of the principles and bases depended by the ACC as a foundation of its establishment. In a statement to INA, he said the first session had achieved a great accomplishment which the Arabs in the ACC countries would witness its results in the near future.

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi was seen off by Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan member of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) and first deputy premier, and RCC Members Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister, and Hasan 'Ali.

Mr. Zayd al-Rifa'i the Jordanian premier and his accompanying delegation also left Baghdad today after participating in meetings of ACC Ministerial Committee which were concluded today. The Jordanian prime minister was seen off by Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan member of RCC and first deputy premier and the two members of the RCC Tariq 'Aziz deputy premier and foreign minister and Hasan 'Ali.

Mr. al-Rifa'i said in a press statement before his departure, that meetings of the ministerial committee were held in a cordial and brotherly atmosphere and were prevailed by serious determination to push forward the march whose foundations were laid down by leaders of the four Arab countries.

On the other hand, Prime Minister of the Yemen Arab Republic 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani also left Baghdad following his participation in meetings of the ACC's Ministerial Commission concluded in Baghdad today. He was seen off by Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan member of RCC and first deputy premier and the two members of the RCC, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister, and Hasan 'Ali.

Mr. 'Abd al-Ghani said in a statement to INA that the results achieved in meetings of the ministerial commission were very big and of importance not only at the level of the Arab countries, members of the council but at the level of the Arab homeland in the manner that enhances and strengthens bonds of the Arab brotherhood.

Ramadan on Arab Cooperation Council Meetings
JN1204212689 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, has affirmed that the great results produced at the meetings

of the Ministerial Council of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] were a reflection of the positive spirit and harmony that prevailed during the meetings.

At a news conference after the conclusion of the final session of meetings and attended by the heads and members of the delegations of Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, the head of the Iraqi delegation to the meetings said: Positive results have been reached to serve the citizens of the ACC countries in the short and long terms.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added: The Ministerial Council has approved the ACC structure; its basic organizations; the method of operation of these organizations; the regulations governing the headquarters agreement and the General Secretariat; the rules and procedures to be followed by the ACC; the headquarters agreement; the privileges and immunities to be granted to ACC employees; and its financial system.

Ramadan indicated that an agreement was reached by the delegation heads on the candidates for the ACC secretary general's post. He said that the candidates' names will be submitted to the ACC countries' leaders at their next summit so that one of these candidates will be chosen for this post.

The first deputy prime minister pointed out that the Ministerial Council approved draft agreements on noninterference in internal affairs, the nonuse of force or military intervention, the movement of the ACC citizens among the ACC member states, the cancellation of regulations pertaining to entry visas and consequent customs fees, and preferential treatment and priority for ACC citizens in labor and work opportunities. He indicated that the Ministerial Council has also endorsed a draft agreement on cooperation in the judicial and legal fields—an agreement considered a step that will promote legal and judicial cooperation among the ACC member states.

Ramadan added that the Ministerial Council also approved some aspects of a draft agreement on air transport, decided to form a committee of competent ministers and technicians to be tasked with preparing studies on air transport, and asked the committee to submit these studies to the Ministerial Committee within a 6-month period.

He pointed out that the council discussed the issue of political cooperation and coordination among the Foreign Ministries in the ACC member states and the issue of holding consultations among these ministries to take unified stands at international, regional, and Arab forums.

Ramadan went on to say: The ACC leaders will adopt at their next summit the resolutions that will serve joint cooperation in this field and said that this will reflect a new status of political action and diplomatic activities for the Council.

Concluding his news conference, he said it was agreed to draw up economic studies that can be discussed at the next session of the Ministerial Council, which will be held in Baghdad in 3 months.

The news conference was attended by correspondents of Arab and foreign newspapers, news agencies, INA, and Iraqi radio and television stations.

UN Observer Chief Arrives From Tehran 12 Apr

JN1204155289 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 12, INA—Yugoslav General and commander of the United Nations Iraq-Iran Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) Slavko Jovic arrived here from Tehran today.

General Slavko's visit comes within his shuttle visits between Baghdad and Tehran to supervise the international observers work on the Iraqi side.

General Slavko was received by his assistant, representative of the Higher Committee for Coordination with International Observers and the U.N. representative in Baghdad.

Arens: Sharansky Candidate for UN Envoy

TA1304125689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] In an interview with the Voice of Israel, Minister Arens confirmed that Natan Sharansky is the Foreign Ministry's candidate for the post of UN ambassador. The Foreign Ministry appointments committee will convene soon to discuss this appointment, as well as the appointment of a new ambassador to France to replace 'Ovadya Sofer.

Minister Arens emphasized that it is his ministry's strict practice to ensure that Israeli envoys throughout the world stay outside Israel no longer than 5 years, and that they arrive at their designated posts fresh from Israel, in the minister's words.

Shamir: Change in PLO Philosophy Not Ruled Out

TA1304063189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] In New York, Prime Minister Shamir said last night that he does not rule out a change by the PLO in regard to Israel. He added, however, that if the founders of the PLO change their philosophy, they will have to dissolve the organization. Speaking to the New York Foreign Policy Association, the prime minister also said it was too early to say whether his proposal for elections would be rejected by the Palestinians. Jonathan Shachter reports from New York:

[Begin recording] [Shachter] The prime minister's message to the Foreign Policy Association was that negotiations with the PLO are, as he put it, a sure prescription for war. The PLO is the prime mover behind international terrorism, he said, and was formed for the express purpose of destroying Israel. But, in the question period following his address, Shamir was asked why he thought the PLO was incapable of a sincere change:

[Shamir] I do not think, I do not say that the PLO could never change. If they will change, in my opinion, if sometime the founders of the PLO will change their philosophy, then they will have to dissolve the organization, because they will not be able to implement their pact.

[Shachter] Their goal, said Shamir, is still a strategy of stages aimed at Israel's destruction and, he added, the acts of terrorism continue each day.

The prime minister also played down the reports that Palestinians have rejected his proposal for elections in the territories:

[Shamir] First of all, I think it is too early to say if the Palestinians have accepted our proposals or not. It has to be a process of consultations, of deliberations. We have to wait, and we have agreed with the U.S. Government that we will work together on this line of getting the acceptance of these proposals by various Arab sectors, and they have to take a certain time for this process.

[Shachter] If the elections are accepted, said Shamir, it would be possible for Israel to—as he put it—defend the safety of any Arab or Jew who wishes to have Israeli protection.

The prime minister avoided answering a question that alluded to Monday night's submachinegun attack at the Jaffa Gate. But, earlier in the day, according to a spokesman, in a meeting with some 200 American rabbis, Shamir strongly condemned the attack, saying that in every democratic society there are fringe elements that work against democracy. It is not a political issue at all, said Shamir; it is a police matter to be investigated by the police. I am sure we will overcome this fringe phenomenon, he said. He did not mention any group by name. [end recording]

Paper Says Dialogue With PLO Has Begun

TA1304135389 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Apr 89 p A14

[Commentary by Dov Goldstein: "Negotiations With the PLO Have Already Started"]

[Text] On the eve of his departure on a visit to the United States, I asked Foreign Minister Moshe Arens: The Americans said that they would take the ideas for an arrangement that Prime Minister Shamir brings with him to Washington and present them to the PLO in meetings with its representatives. They would later return to us with the PLO's response. Since Israel cannot prevent such a move—either by preventing the United States from holding a dialogue with the PLO and reporting the Israeli positions, or by refusing to listen to the U.S. presentation of the PLO reply—are you aware of the fact that Israel is actually entering a stage of indirect negotiations with the PLO with U.S. mediation?

Arens denied it, but his statement was not as blunt and determined as his typical stand on other issues usually is. He said: "We do not know what the Americans and the PLO talk about, and we are not asking them to report to us what the PLO men say."

The process has started. There is no more reason to pretend. The dubious advantage of those pretending to be naive can be abandoned. The assumption that the United States will not for long maintain its connections with the PLO at a low level, through its Tunisian ambassador, is not surprising. The modest beginning, the low-key opening, was a result of basic U.S. needs. Should the United States decide to upgrade the level of the contacts, it would have to confront only a faint Israeli protest. Many U.S. Jews would welcome such a move, while Europe, Asia, and the Arab world would applaud it. Many Israelis who condemn the United States for its indecisive position, who urge it to

twist Israel's arm until it says "I do," would not hesitate to take advantage of such an opportunity. They would congratulate themselves for finally persuading the superpower to do their will.

This is the reality. Israel does not have the necessary power to hold off this historic process. There has never been a chance—and now there is even less of one—of anyone besides Israel approving of the annexation of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Save for a handful of true Israeli fanatics, even the heads of the Likud realize with broken hearts that a small country—let alone a country divided by unbridgeable opinions—could resist the rest of the world.

Next week, when Prime Minister Shamir returns from the United States and reports about his talks there, sharp critics from within his own party and its affiliates will charge at him asking: What have you given up? Have you agreed to political elections in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza? It is clear beyond doubt that the PLO would win such elections. Who would confront it? What if there is no other list of candidates other than the one approved by the PLO? They will further add: You have announced that after the interim arrangement Israel will negotiate with the elected Palestinian representation and implement UN Resolution 242 to the full satisfaction of all parties concerned. This means that you have agreed ahead of time to the principle of territories for peace, which is the basic part of 242. How could you?

The prime minister would surely tell the critics: I was there! I saw what is happening! I stood face to face with President Bush and Secretary of State Baker—and if I said only what I did, it means that I had no other choice!

Even now, in direct contrast to its intentions, Israel is participating in a process conceived and born when the United States decided to open a dialogue with the PLO: Whether the Israeli Government openly admits it or not and whether the prime minister and foreign minister prefer at this stage to pretend to deny it, indirect negotiations between Israel and the PLO have begun with U.S. mediation. That was most likely the U.S. intention all along when it successfully managed to extract from Yasir 'Arafat bland declarations on the recognition of Israel and the cessation of terrorism: To pave the way for indirect negotiations between Israel and the PLO.

None of Yitzhaq Shamir's plans have any chance of being accomplished without the PLO's agreement. That is the tragic truth from Israel's point of view, but that is the situation. Without the PLO, there will not be any elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. No one will go to vote—and the argument, that in such a situation Israel will be able to claim: "Well, we really did want it," will be unacceptable to everybody. Without the PLO, agreement on an interim settlement cannot be reached and autonomy cannot be set up. To distinguish between "PLO-Tunisia" and "PLO-Nabulus" (as Defense Minister Rabin has done), or between "Palestinians who shoot" and "Palestinians who do not shoot" (in the words of Finance Minister Peres), makes sense semantically, but does not have real significance.

Another crazy assumption: Even if the United States desired it and was capable of forcing on Israel direct negotiations with the PLO over the establishment of autonomy, it would prefer to benefit from its status as a mediator with both sides requiring its services. If there is, however, really no alternative to negotiations with the PLO, why does Israel at least not save the agent's fee? All the Israeli Governments over the years have claimed that only direct negotiations between enemies can bring about peace in the Middle East.

Merhav Briefs Egypt, PRC, USSR on Plan

TA1204163489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Report by Natan Gutman]

[Text] Yitzhaq Shamir's four-point plan is still making the rounds of all the world capitals. Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav, who leaves for Cairo tomorrow, will brief his Egyptian hosts on Shamir's ideas as presented in Washington.

In his meetings with Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials, Merhav will make clear that Egypt is a partner in the need to find a formula to get the election process in the territories started. Merhav will also say that any delay in holding the elections will seriously harm the peace process in the region. He will also brief the Egyptians on the other points in the Shamir plan: the resumption of the Camp David accords, the ending of the state of war with the Arab countries, and an international plan for the rehabilitation of the refugee camps.

The PRC's representatives in the United Nations were briefed on the details of Shamir's plan by Israel's representatives in New York.

The Israeli consular delegation in Moscow will report to the Soviet Foreign Ministry on the plan.

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is leaving for Canada to present the Shamir plan there. To complete the picture, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens is busy briefing foreign ambassadors in Israel, and Shamir will leave soon for Europe for meetings with EC leaders.

During his Cairo visit, Merhav will also discuss a series of bilateral issues. Merhav will ask the Egyptians to open another port of entry on the northern end of the Red Sea, to act to improve Israel's image in Egypt, and to deal with the problem of Israeli soldiers missing in action. The bodies of 19 soldiers have still not been found. We believe that all the MIA's can be found through Israeli-Egyptian cooperation, Re'uven Merhav said.

Merhav Leaves for Egypt

TA1304081689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Telephone interview with Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav by Mikha Friedman and Li'ora Nir—live]

[Excerpt] [Friedman] Israel is sending Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav to Egypt today. He will meet with Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, with whom he will discuss a wide range of unresolved bilateral issues, from ways to promote the peace process and the Shamir plan, which will be presented to an authorized representative of the Egyptian Government, to various issues—including the Israeli-Egyptian relationship—which remain unresolved despite the many years of peace between the two countries. We now have Re'uven Merhav on the line. Good morning.

[Merhav] Good morning.

[Friedman] You are leaving for Cairo today. Among other things, you are to brief the Egyptians on the Shamir plan. What is there to brief them on, if Egypt has already formulated its stand against the plan? In yesterday's Mubarak-Husayn talks, Egypt made elections contingent on an Israeli withdrawal from the territories.

[Merhav] I do not think the state of things should be viewed as final. First of all, we have a stand of our own. Our plans have not been finalized either; a ministerial team is to convene today to start working on the details. After all, this is merely a preliminary concept which is the central component of four others. The Egyptians have made no categorical objections, and the idea as a whole was not rejected outright in the meeting between the Egyptian president and the Jordanian king. We have seen many processes in the Middle East which started with a rejection, but which developed positively after the parties realized that there was no other way to achieve something.

[Friedman] Do you share the feeling that Egypt has no independent stands on everything pertaining to the future of the peace process and habitually tends to align itself with the policy dictated by the PLO?

[Merhav] There is no lack of independence. Egypt is the leader of the Arab world, and in recent years, it has proved this again and again. Since Egypt managed to maintain peace as a strategic asset and to regain its position in the Arab world, its basic policy has justified itself. At the same time, for reasons of its own—which are quite understandable—Egypt prefers to coordinate its positions with the Jordanians.

[Nir] Both the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and the Palestinians contend that there is an attempt to draw a line between Palestinians residing in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and those living outside. Israel can provide no solution to this problem, and the differences of opinion on this issue are extreme. What is our approach on this issue?

[Merhav] Our approach should be made very clear, and I think they realize it. They say they wish to get the process moving. The only way to move it is to achieve some kind of calm, start a dialogue, locate interlocutors, and set the wheels in motion. The Egyptians are very sensible people, and they will understand this.

[Friedman] Do you think that after Egypt hears your reports, as well as other Israeli explanations, it will be able to soften the PLO and recruit its support for Shamir's plan? Is Israel at all interested in this?

[Merhav] We do not need to recruit the PLO on this issue. If the Egyptians adhere to their stance that the process must move along, that a dialogue should be started, that international support should be sought for any kind of shift, they must realize that the only way to achieve this is through the practical approach proposed by us. [passage omitted]

CRM, MAPAM Deny Meeting With 'Arafat

TA1304083189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Vienna Radio confirmed this morning that Yasir 'Arafat is due to arrive in Austria tomorrow. Our correspondent Dan Eshel, who heard the broadcast, notes that the report stated that the PLO leader will meet with Israeli opposition members at a secret location.

Our Knesset correspondent Yo'el Nir reported last night that the Citizens Rights Movement and MAPAM [United Workers Party] had made it clear that none of their members is about to participate in the meeting in Vienna.

Confirmation of 'Arafat as President Welcomed

TA0404183689 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 4 Apr 89 p 1

[Editorial: "'Arafat, President of the State of Palestine"]

[Text] The decision adopted by the PLO Central Council, confirming Yasir 'Arafat as president of the independent State of Palestine—until the time following the end of Israeli occupation when the Palestinian people are able to exercise their right to choose—is a natural decision principally based on 'Arafat's chairmanship of the PLO Executive Committee. This is a historic decision deriving legitimacy from the principles and constants of the recent Palestine National Council in Algiers.

The welcome expressed by our Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied land for this decision is a reaffirmation of President 'Arafat's wise leadership. It is a new era for 'Arafat, the permanent symbol during

various phases of the Palestinian cause, and a new blessing for the good omens of independence over this land. At the same time, this decision is a strategic indication of total confidence in all the steps, plans, and initiatives put forward by 'Arafat for a political settlement and a resolution of the Palestinian problem leading to the achievement of a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

The support by the Palestinian opposition represented by the two fronts, the Popular and Democratic, for this decision reinforces the complete support for the political process through which President 'Arafat is moving in this fateful phase. This affirms that Palestinian national unity has risen to a new level in exercising its important role within the context of the current political confrontations.

This decision will increase the rallying of world countries around the PLO, and will increase the number of countries that recognize the state of Palestine. All this will provide a deeper and broader scope for Palestinian diplomacy to clearly and decisively achieve its objectives.

Rabin: 254 Files Opened on Arab Deaths

TA1304122189 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 13 Apr 89 p 5

[Report by Yosi Werther]

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin responded in the Knesset yesterday to a series of queries and motions for the agenda about his ministry.

In reply to a query by MAPAM [United Workers Party] Knesset Member [MK] Hayim Oron about cases of aberrant behavior by soldiers in the territories, Rabin replied that the Military Police has opened 254 files dealing with Arab deaths under unnatural circumstances. Some 357 files on aberrant behavior by soldiers were opened. Of these, 350 were passed on to the state prosecutor.

In reply to a motion for the agenda on the escalation of violence in Judaea and Samaria raised by Hanan Porat (the National Religious Party), the minister reported that a "reinforced company" permanently safeguards the three small Jewish settlements in Hebron. The number of soldiers safeguarding the settlers equals, or perhaps even exceeds, the number of Jews living there, Rabin said. "Nonetheless, there is no way to guarantee that no stone will be thrown," the minister said.

Rabin criticized the establishment of small settlements that require a large Israeli army force to defend them and gave as an example the settlement of Talmon—established in accordance with the coalition agreement—which is made up of five families. Porat responded by saying that there are already 12 families there, but Rabin said that with such a small population, the IDF cannot take responsibility. "We would have to tie down an army to defend this settlement instead of acting against violent rioters in the territories," Rabin asserted.

Citizens Rights Movement MK 'Oded Zucker asked Rabin about the contradicting statements by various defense establishment spokesmen on the number of fatalities in the territories during the intifadah [uprising] and asked to be given exact figures. Rabin responded by giving the following statistics: Up to 15 February 1989, 298 inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip were killed and over 4,500 were wounded in security forces' activities; 9 Israeli civilians and 4 soldiers were killed, and 469 Israeli civilians and 856 soldiers were wounded.

Imprisoned Leaders Said Conducting Intifadah

TA1304120789 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Apr 89 pp 1, 13

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpt] "Leaders of the intifadah [uprising] who are being held in prisons and detention camps are maintaining ongoing contacts with the leaders on the outside, passing out instructions and planning operations. In one case, attack orders that were uncovered were found to have been issued from within one of the detention camps." This was reported by a senior defense source.

According to the source, most of the leaders of the intifadah and the Unified National Command of the Uprising are currently being held in detention. It seems that these people have not stopped their activities while in detention; they hold consultations there, direct the uprising from there, and issue orders regarding operations outside the prison walls.

Official sources said that there are attorneys who serve as liaisons between the detainees and the leaders on the outside. These attorneys come to the prisons under false pretenses, when their real intention is to receive orders to relay to the leaders on the outside. [passage omitted]

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Tulkarm Curfew Lifted

TA1204193689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Excerpt] The curfew imposed this morning on Tulkarm has been lifted. The curfew was imposed following disturbances triggered by the murder of an 80-year-old inhabitant of the town. [passage omitted]

3 Reported Killed in Nahhalin

TA1304091989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Sources in East Jerusalem have said that three residents were killed and dozens wounded in last night's violent incident in the village of Nahhalin near Bethlehem.

Citing official military sources, our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a violent confrontation developed between residents and soldiers when the army was carrying out an operation designed to restore order, erase graffiti, and remove flags. A curfew was imposed on the village and the press is forbidden entry. [passage omitted]

Further on Nahhalin Violence

TA1304142989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] In addition to routine checks and debriefings, the Israel Defence Forces [IDF] will appoint a senior officer to look into the bloody incidents in the village of Nahhalin near Bethlehem, a senior officer told our correspondent Arye Gus.

Following a thorough debriefing, the IDF says that 4 youths were killed and 11 wounded in clashes in the village. One family claims that their son is missing. Arab sources report 5 dead and at least 20 wounded.

Military sources told our correspondent that the incident broke out after a Border Police unit ran into an ambush laid by hundreds of local youngsters. They used slingshots and stones and set up barriers. It was stressed that the village of Nahhalin is notorious for its violence: In 1948, the murderers of the 35 Hagana fighters who were in a convoy that was trying to make its way to Gush 'Ezyon set out from this village. The IDF has clamped a curfew on the village, and order has been restored.

There were numerous incidents today in the Bethlehem area after news of the death toll in Nahhalin was learned. Five people have been wounded in the city of Bethlehem.

'Bloody' Gaza Clashes Reported

TA1304124989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Apr 89 pp 1, 10

[Report by Mikhal Sela' and Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] Eighteen Gaza Strip residents and three West Bankers were shot and wounded in clashes with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers yesterday, according to local sources. The IDF put the number wounded in the Gaza Strip at four.

Among the broken roads of Gaza City, which have been covered during the past year with piles of garbage and the dark ash of burnt tyres, the spring smells of gardens in flower and blossoming citrus groves serve as counterpoint to the continuing bloody clashes.

The most serious Gaza clash occurred in Al-Burayj refugee camp, where nine Palestinians were wounded by plastic and metal-rubber bullets, according to Palestinian sources. The IDF Spokesman confirms that four people were wounded.

In the Al-Shati' camp, Jewish civilians fired at local residents after their car was stoned. Two teenagers were wounded, an IDF spokesman reported.

Other casualties were two wounded in Gaza's Sabra neighbourhood, two in Jabalyah, and one each in the Al-Shaykh Radwan and Al-Shaja'iyah neighbourhoods and at Al-Nusayrat refugee camp.

In Gaza's main street, Palestinians and soldiers yesterday exchanged stones. Soldiers raided an UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] clinic, allegedly breaking windows and scaring dozens of women and children while searching for some high-school pupils.

Only the Al-Mughazi refugee camp was under curfew yesterday. [passage omitted]

In other developments, three Palestinians were wounded, one of them seriously during a clash with soldiers who raided Arrabah, near Janin. Another protester was wounded by rubber bullets in Bethlehem. [passage omitted]

Gazan Sentenced to 20 Months

TA1304174089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Mahid Abu Shahla, a 27-year-old Gaza resident who was convicted of membership in the Unified National Command of the Uprising, dissemination of leaflets, and writing hostile slogans, was given a 20-month sentence. He was also convicted of throwing stones at workers waiting to leave for work in Israel, setting tires on fire, and setting up roadblocks.

Four Shi'ite 'Gunmen' Captured in Security Zone

TA1304072489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] unit last night captured four Shi'ite gunmen. One of the gunmen was wounded in the exchange. There were no SLA casualties. Our reporter in the north says the band apparently infiltrated the security zone with the aim of planting mines and roadside charges.

Lahd Releases Detainees as 'Ramadan Gesture'
TA1304112189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Apr 89 p 12

[ITIM report]

[Text] South Lebanon Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahd has in the past few days released prisoners held in the Al-Khiyam prison in the South Lebanon security zone, as a Ramadan gesture. The prison holds 200 men and women suspected of collaborating with various terrorist groups.

Agreement Reached With Soviet Writers Union
TA1204095789 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Apr 89 p A2

[Report by correspondent in Moscow]

[Excerpts] The first cultural agreement of its kind was signed yesterday in Moscow between the USSR Union of Writers and the Israeli Hebrew Writers Union.

The agreement provides for the publication in the Soviet Union of an anthology of contemporary Israeli poetry translated into Russian and the publication in Israel of an anthology of contemporary Russian poetry translated into Hebrew.

The agreement also provides for the publication of an anthology of contemporary Israeli prose by the large Soviet publishing house Raduga, the exchange of writers, and the assignment of columns on contemporary Israeli literature in leading Soviet publications.

A similar agreement was signed with the writers union of Georgia, while an agreement in principle in the same spirit was attained with the writers union of the Ukraine. [passage omitted]

Olzhas Suleimenov, the culture minister and chairman of the writers union of Soviet Kazakhstan [title as published] and one of the most prominent contemporary Russian poets, has accepted the invitation of the Hebrew Writers Union to visit Israel.

The delegation is due back in Israel tomorrow.

TRUD Staffers' Visit Part of 'Gradual Thaw'
TA2403165689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Mar 89 p A2

[Report by Irit Rosenblum]

[Text] TRUD, the publication with the largest circulation in the world, sent two members of its staff on a 10-day visit to Israel. TRUD is the Soviet trade union organ. It prints 20 million copies (more than PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA combined). The two guests are Deputy Chief Editor Rudolf Kolchanov and Cairo-based correspondent Dr Zugreb Malvedian [name as published].

Sources in Jerusalem have remarked on the gradual thaw in the relations between the Soviet press and Israel. The first Soviet journalist to arrive here, the IZVESTIYA Middle East correspondent, limited his visit to encounters with reporters. The second, a TASS representative, met with Minister Mordekhay Gur and Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. The guests from TRUD began their visit with a meeting with Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Li'el yesterday; they plan to interview Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, as well as Histadrut Secretary General Yisra'el Qeysar. They have also asked to visit the territories, a kibbutz, and absorption establishments housing immigrants from the USSR.

Soviet Scientist Sees Israel's Image Changing
TA2803123589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] A visiting senior Soviet scientist has called on Moscow to station a permanent correspondent in Israel. Dr Aleksandr Kroyakov [name as heard] from the Sociological Research Institute, which researches problems related to propaganda, says that Israel's image is now undergoing a process of change in the Soviet Union. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that the scientist's remarks were part of an address he made in Hebrew at a Jewish Agency seminar in Jerusalem.

Joint Projects Agreed on With Soviet Delegation
TA0704173389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] A top-level delegation of scientists and intellectuals from the Soviet Republic of Georgia have made an agreement with the education minister and Israeli research institutes to commence a large variety of joint projects in both countries. The main purpose of these activities will be to study the common past of the Jewish and Georgian peoples. Among other things, joint archeological excavations will be started, and Israeli researchers will be allowed access to archives located in Soviet Georgia. This was reported by the delegation's leader, Prof Andrey Apakidze, deputy chairman of the Georgian Academy of Sciences.

Knesset Member Efrayim Gur pointed out that the development of relations with Georgia will contribute to the furthering of relations with the Soviet Union.

Travel to Moscow Via Cyprus Possible on Aeroflot
TA1304131389 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Apr 89 p 1

[Report by Arye Arad]

[Text] Now that the Israeli tourist firm Dan Sabra has been appointed an indirect representative of the Soviet airline, Israelis can travel from Tel Aviv to Moscow via Cyprus on Aeroflot, which also flies to a large number of other destinations in the USSR and other places.

The Israeli firm yesterday signed an agreement with the Greek Cypriot firm Groutas Tours on representing it in Israel, which therefore means it will be indirectly representing Aeroflot here. Dan Sabra will help Israelis and others in obtaining visas to the USSR, as well as transit visas for a 2-day stay in Moscow while waiting for a connecting flight. Dan Sabra will also provide hotel rooms in the USSR for package tours there.

Aeroflot has flights from Moscow to all European countries, New York, Tokyo, Beijing, and to Latin American destinations.

USSR Accused of Rewarding 'Israeli Rigidness'

TA0404175089 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 1 Apr 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Moscow Is Required To Explain"]

[Text] Reports have been disseminated about the intention of the Soviet Union to allow between 40,000 and 100,000 Soviet Jews to immigrate to Israel. These glad tidings were brought to the Israeli nation by its prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, to raise the morale of the Israeli people in this critical phase of their history.

What has most endangered the Palestinian people since the beginning of this century is Jewish immigration to Palestine. During past decades the Palestinian people have faced waves of mass immigration, followed by waves of Palestinian people's deportation in order to make room for the new immigrants.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu did not conceal his pleasure over this report. He declared that this new exodus "will provide Israel with the opportunity to advance toward the 21st century by regaining its vitality."

Our friend, Moscow, which has supported the Arab nation in its wars with Israel and backed the Arab nation in its political positions against Israel, is still committed to the severance of diplomatic ties with Israel until a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict is reached. It seems now, though, that the "principled wall" to which Moscow was committed has collapsed in the face of rapprochement with the West.

Our Arab nation is not in need of the weapons for which Moscow used to demand the harshest terms, in most cases their price in hard currency. Our Arab nation is not in need of the severance of diplomatic relations between Moscow and Tel Aviv as much as it is in need of ending the occupation of Palestinian territories and making the new exodus dependent on an end to the occupation. Only then will we know that the Soviet stance stems from principle. If this exodus takes place due to pressures by the West, especially the United States, and the price is the Soviet Union's need for improved ties with the West and western technology, then this is something that we did not expect from our Soviet friends.

At a time when the Palestinian people are waging the most difficult stage of their struggle to regain their legitimate rights; at a time when the Palestinian people have succeeded in opening the eyes of the entire world to the reality and crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict; and at a time when the Palestinian people have succeeded in drawing the attention of world public opinion to their sufferings and usurped rights, the Soviet Union is presenting a valuable gift to Israel. It seems like a reward for Israeli rigidness, or something intended to gain Israel's favor.

We do not deny the Soviet Union's honorable positions toward the Palestinian cause throughout the history of that cause, but we cannot understand this step, especially when no denial of this report has thus far been issued by Moscow.

We sense that our closest friends have begun to abandon us, bearing in mind that after the visit to the region by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze we became certain that Moscow feels that it is now able to play a central role in settling the Middle East crisis. In addition to possessing an extremely important role in bringing Arab parties closer, Moscow also has widespread European backing in its effort to convene an international peace conference in the region.

We hope that Israel's interest in the immigration of Soviet Jews will be a means for pressuring Israel to moderate its stances and end its occupation of Palestinian lands.

Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives

TA1204202089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs this evening arrived on an official visit to Israel. The guest told our correspondent Dan Eshel that his visit testifies to the high level of relations between the two countries. He also hopes that embassies will be opened in Tel Aviv and Budapest soon, but noted that we must take into consideration the fact that there are various angles in bilateral relations, among them the situation in the Middle East.

Our correspondent notes that last year more than 30,000 Israelis visited Hungary and more than 10,000 Hungarians visited Israel.

Polish Trade Delegation, Minister Pay Visit

TA1004115589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Apr 89 p 7

[Text] Poland's deputy foreign trade minister Dr. Janusz Kaczurba is heading a four-man delegation visiting here. The delegation was invited by Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon, who last year visited Poland.

The delegation is holding talks, aimed at promoting industrial cooperation between the two countries, with senior ministry officials and leading industrialists.

Poland Urged To Remove Auschwitz Convent

TA1204102489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Apr 89 p 12

[Report by Menachem Shalev]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens yesterday told visiting Polish Religious Affairs Minister Wladyslaw Loranc that the continued activities of the Carmelite convent at Auschwitz are creating "great pain and anguish" in Israel, and called on the Polish government to remove it from the site.

At the same time, Foreign Ministry sources said yesterday that top Vatican officials promised Ambassador to Rome Mordekhay Drori last week that the convent would be removed "quietly" in the near future.

The officials, who attended a dinner at Drori's residence, called for Israeli patience and advised Jerusalem to tone down its public protestations over the presence of the convent, in order to facilitate its discreet removal.

Meeting with Loranc, who is here for a week-long visit as guest of the Religious Affairs Ministry, Arens called on the Polish Government to spur implementation of the agreement concluded two years ago between European Jewish leaders and Catholic cardinals. According to that agreement, the convent was to have been removed from the former site of the Auschwitz concentration camp by last February 20.

Loranc promised Arens to take the matter up with the Polish Government on his return to Warsaw, and expressed confidence that the controversy would be amicably resolved in the coming months.

Hammer Invited to Warsaw

TA0704114389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Polish Religious Affairs Minister Wladyslaw Loranc invited Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer to visit Warsaw. In their meeting this morning in Hammer's Jerusalem office, they decided the two governments would set up a joint committee to deal with the affairs of the Polish Jewish community and its institutions.

Our correspondent Rafi Shalhin reports that the Polish minister promised to take action to remove the Carmelite monastery from Auschwitz.

Ghana, Congo Seek Improved Relations

TA0704102189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Apr 89 p 20

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Ghanaian Foreign Minister Obed Asamoah this week summoned the Israeli representative in Accra, Shlomo Morgan—who operates under the auspices of the Swiss Embassy—and told him that Ghana wished to establish "direct communications" with Jerusalem.

The meeting marked the first ever Ghanaian-initiated meeting—at any level—with an Israeli representative in Accra, since that country broke off relations in 1973.

Asamoah asserted, however, that Ghana could not renew full diplomatic relations at this time, because of Israel's ties with South Africa—and what he termed the "nuclear cooperation" between the two countries. He also said that the Ghanaian people's identification with the plight of the Palestinians inhibited his government from open contacts with Jerusalem.

In another development, the U.S. Embassy in Brazzaville was told by Congolese officials that President Denis Sassou-Nguesso wished to send a special emissary to Jerusalem to discuss the resumption of normal ties.

Air Force To Purchase U.S. Apache Helicopters

TA0404155389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Last month the Israeli Air Force conducted tests with the new U.S. attack helicopter, the Apache. Tests involving the firing of missiles from the helicopter were also performed. The pilots expressed satisfaction with the helicopter's performance. Our army affairs correspondent reports that these disclosures will appear in the new issue of BITA'ON HEYL HA'AVIR, the Air Force's publication. Our correspondent adds that the Air Force has decided to purchase the Apache helicopters manufactured by McDonnell Douglas.

Helicopter Deal Denied

TA0704100189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Apr 89 p 2

[Report by Kenneth Kaplan]

[Text] The Defence Ministry yesterday denied a report from Washington that Prime Minister Shamir had reached an agreement with the Bush administration on the purchase of McDonnell Douglas Apache attack helicopters. According to the report, the agreement, for 25 helicopters, was to be formally signed by Defence Minister Rabin in Washington next month.

Ya'aqobi to U.S. for Talks on VOA Transmitters

TA1304144489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Communications Minister Gad Ya'aqobi left for the United States this morning for talks with the management of Voice of America about the continuing development of the transmitters project in the 'Arava. Some $300 million will be invested in the project over the next 4 years.

Party Demands No Elections Before 'Uprising' Ends

TA1204195789 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] The Eretz Yisra'el Front made up of 30 Knesset members from the Likud, the National Religious Party, Agudat Yisra'el, Tehiya, and Moledet, has decided to demand that the government promise that elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will not take place before the intifadah [uprising] stops completely.

The front pointed out that even according to the Camp David accords, the elected representatives would have the authority to conduct negotiations on autonomy for the inhabitants, but not to conduct negotiations on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Steps To Build 'Bridges of Trust' Urged

TA0704171589 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 7 Apr 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Bridges of Trust Require Decisions in Harmony With Right and Justice"]

[Excerpts] Some 500 detainees from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip who were held in various Israeli prisons were released yesterday. Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin described this initiative as a way of demonstrating to the Muslims his respect for their religion. It is ironic, however, that this step should come at a time when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is visiting Washington. This leads us to believe that there is a connection between the release of the detainees and this visit, with the aim of easing the wave of criticism to which Israel is being subjected in the United States whether on the official or public opinion levels.

Irrespective of the motives, we welcome the return of these youths to their kinfolk, and hope that Rabin will release all the detainees who have been thrown into prisons against the background of the intifadah [uprising] as a goodwill gesture toward the Palestinians who are destined to live on this land alongside Israel. The creation of a suitable climate and the building of bridges of trust between the two peoples would be achieved by a final closure of these prisons, by conducting a dialogue with the Palestinians, and by addressing the roots and causes of the intifadah. The last 16 months have proved that force cannot annihilate the Palestinian people's resolve.

Israel would be doing a favor to itself and its future if it tried to diagnose the disease and reach decisions for a fundamental treatment, rather than resorting to tranquilizers. Here is a nation that has lived some 22 years under occupation, has grievances, and wants to achieve its liberation and national independence. This is not inconsistent with guaranteeing Israel's security, but the suffering must be lifted from this nation's shoulders. The Palestinian people have always called on Israel to face this problem and not evade it.

For many years we have been calling on the Israeli authorities to consider the occupied territories as being under Israeli "trusteeship" until the crisis is resolved by negotiations that would result in a fundamental settlement of the problem. But the Israeli rightwing was overcome by vanity and considered this land as the land of "Eretz Yisra'el" and ignored even Palestinian existence. The problem began here. [passage omitted]

Rabin has announced the release of some of the detainees. We hope that this will be followed by further steps proving Israel's good faith in giving the Palestinian people the opportunity to live in dignity until a solution to the entire problem is found, and the Palestinian people attain their legitimate rights.

This cannot be interpreted by Israel as a retreat or defeat, rather it constitutes an expression of political maturity and proves that self-confidence is borne by being in harmony with right and justice.

MENA Names Mubarak's Accompanying Delegation
NC1204161289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1531 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has left Cairo for Amman on a short visit to Jordan, during which he will confer with King Husayn as part of the two leaders' continuous consultations to coordinate stands and exchange views on the latest developments in the Arab arena.

Accompanying the president on his visit to Jordan is a delegation made up of Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information; and Zaki Badr, minister of interior.

Also accompanying the president are Dr Zakariya 'Azmi, chief of the President's Office, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning, and Dr Muhammad al-Razzaz, minister of finance, were among those who bid the president farewell.

Mubarak, Husayn Hold Amman News Conference
JN1204214889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Amman tonight following a visit of several hours to Jordan, during which he held talks with His Majesty King Husayn on developments in both the Arab and international arenas as well as efforts being exerted to establish peace in the Middle East. The talks also dealt with means to bolster joint Arab action within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council.

His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a brief news conference before President Mubarak's departure during which they answered questions posed by journalists.

Responding to a question on the results of President Mubarak's visit to the United States and the expected visit of His Majesty King Husayn to the United States and their effect on peace efforts in the region, His Majesty King Husayn said:

My grand brother honored us with his visit to his homeland Jordan and to me personally. He gave me the opportunity to meet with his excellency and listen to his views and impressions before my imminent visit to the United States. I believe we share the conviction that the entire world is moving in the correct direction.

We hope for the United States to tackle the Middle East issue, which obstructs the world orientation toward solving issues with all their details. Remaining unresolved, these issues negatively affect the world orientation and endanger world peace. I believe we are optimistic about the results.

Responding to question whether there is a turn in the U.S. stand toward the Palestine question, His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak said:

My recent visit to the United States was to meet with the new U.S. Administration, which we fully know, fully understands the Palestine question and fully knows the dimensions of this issue.

I believe that you have followed up all statements made by the U.S. Administration during my visit and what U.S. President Bush announced following my meeting with him. He talked about occupied territory for the first time. What was said about land in exchange for peace gives a clear picture of the U.S. vision regarding solving the Palestine question.

Regarding an international conference for peace, I do not believe the U.S. Administration objects to its convocation. However, this requires preparation and consultations until they reach a certain conclusion with the Israeli prime minister on this issue.

Answering a question on the nature of the talks between His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Husni Mubarak, his excellency said:

I acquainted His Majesty King Husayn—in detail—with the talks I held with American President George Bush and the American secretary of state as well as with what I felt. There is a general atmosphere in the U.S. Administration and the Jewish communities in America to resolve the Palestine question.

Answering a question on the news agencies' reports on His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's agreement on holding elections in the West Bank and Gaza under UN supervision and whether his excellency will persuade the PLO to agree on these elections, his excellency said:

If we follow up the Palestinian officials' statements, we will find that none objects to the elections. I heard a statement that we agree on these elections provided they are held under UN supervision and another statement agreeing on holding the elections provided it is preceded by Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territory. This shows that the PLO does not object to holding the elections.

However, holding these elections requires many measures. For example, on the basis of which law will the elections take place? And will the citizens of Jerusalem

participate in these elections? There are many points that need answers. It is not easy to say: Agree on the elections. This basically depends on the PLO's agreement to this effect.

His excellency added: We—whether myself or His Majesty King Husayn—support the PLO to resolve the Palestine question and reach peace in the region. We are exerting our utmost in this respect.

Answering a question on His Excellency President Husni Mubarak's visit to Jordan and the possibility of His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, His Majesty King Husayn said:

President Husni Mubarak's visit to Jordan is a continuation of our previous meetings. We are honored by his excellency's visit, particularly after his visit to the United States. We always meet. We met in Ismailia with Presidents Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat.

I believe there is still time to meet President 'Arafat. I welcome him at any time. And such a meeting might take place before my visit to the United States.

Beirut Sources on Moves To Free U.S. Hostages

PM1204103889 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Apr 89 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Informed Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Contacts Resumed 2 Weeks Ago for Release of U.S. Hostages"]

[Text] Beirut— Informed sources in Beirut have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that contacts through several channels began 1 [figure as published] week ago to revive the issue of the release of the U.S. hostages held in Lebanon. They added that the fact that Washington has so far refrained from "going along with France's escalation in connection with the current situation in Lebanon" could facilitate the release of the U.S. hostages, or some of them.

They said that contacts, which were made discreetly through intermediaries and which were suspended some months ago, have been rensumed and are expected to continue.

Sources close to those holding the U.S. hostages have confirmed this and hinted that this was one of the issues raised during Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati's visit to Damascus, where he conveyed a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from Iranian President Khamene'i.

Velayati's visit to Damascus and talks with his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' resulted in a final settlement between the pro-Iran Hizballah and the pro-Syria Amal Movement.

Beirut sources have stated that Hizballah and Amal agreed to freeze all the disputed issues between them and to escalate the confrontation with the military government headed by Michel 'Awn.

Over the past few days Hizballah officials have attacked France vehemently and warned it against any new interference in Lebanon. Similar stands were taken in Tehran, threatening resistance to any French interference in Lebanon.

Diplomatic sources in Beirut believe that any release of U.S. hostages now or any serious discussion of their release would prompt Washington to distance itself from the French position calling for a Security Council move to emphasize the need "for the withdrawal of all foreign armies from Lebanon."

'Awn Comments on U.S. Stand, Arab Committee

NC1204185389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn held a news conference this afternoon and expressed the view that neither the French political stand nor its diplomacy has changed. He said it still supports the Lebanese position and there has been no alteration with regard to sending relief aid to the besieged areas. He remarked that political conditions cannot be applied to humanitarian aid, which would otherwise lose its humanitarian character.

Regarding the U.S. role in what has been described as an attempt to deflate the French initiative, the prime minister said that the U.S. stand is doubtlessly at variance with the French stand but it cannot have a negative effect or deflate the French initiative. He added: We ask the United States only to adhere to and support the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council.

On the role of French envoy Deniau, Gen 'Awn said: Deniau saw for himself what was happening, and for this reason his attitude was passionate with regard to the events in Lebanon. The U.S. evasiveness on what is occurring in Lebanon is merely a condemnation of what is taking place.

On the Soviet stand, Gen 'Awn said: I believe it is a positive stand. The USSR is coordinating stands with Europe.

Gen 'Awn disclosed that he had asked the five major powers to send envoys to Lebanon to look at events. He had also requested that Arab Committee members be sent to Lebanon, he said, adding: Regrettably, only a French envoy came. Commenting on the results of the U.S.-French meeting, the prime minister said that these meetings have not ended yet and their results will be relayed through diplomatic channels. This takes time, he said.

Concerning the siege of the eastern area, Gen 'Awn said: It is Syria which is besieging the eastern areas. Syria closed the crossings and is now shelling Beirut and Juniyah Ports. He asked: Is it the government that closed or shelled the Sidon, Tyre, or Tripoli Ports? Who is besieging the Lebanese areas?

Gen 'Awn said that the French ships' inability to arrive means that France has formed definite ideas about the reality of the situation. He added that holding up the arrival of the ships means that even the humanitarian issue in Lebanon cannot be resolved by negotiations.

Gen 'Awn added that an incorrect assessment has been made of what is happening. He noted that the Arab Committee is still calling on us to resort to the Security Committee. He added: The Arab Committee believes that the conflicting parties are myself, Dr al-Huss, Walid Bey [Junblatt], and Mr Nabih [Birri]. It believes that it is necessary for us to return to the Security Committee.

'Awn said: I want to fight only the forces that occupy my homeland. There are two countries occupying Lebanon, Israel and Syria. The Syrian occupation is impotent, and has been particularly impotent since 23 September. The Syrian presence in Lebanon is an act of aggression according to UN-adopted resolutions.

'Awn Cabinet Urges Implementing UN Resolutions

NC1304132189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] At its weekly meeting today the Council of Ministers expressed its satisfaction with the course that the Lebanese issue is taking. The council urged Lebanese expatriates abroad to generate greater momentum and support to force the international community to implement UN resolutions on the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. The council exhorted the Arabs to put pressure on Syria to persuade it to stop its aggression and withdraw its forces from Lebanon. After the meeting, the following statement was issued:

At its meeting this morning the Council of Ministers studied the security and political situation in light of the continuing Syrian blocade, bombardment of residential areas, cutting of transportation routes, and destruction of economic and supply establishments. These measures are intended to cripple the potential for steadfastness and obstruct daily activities in all Lebanese areas.

The council discussed the issue of French humanitarian aid and denounced the Syrian occupiers' insistence on obstructing the arrival of French aid to those who need it. It also denounced Syria's using its agents to politicize a completely humanitarian gesture in order to frustrate this gesture. It is no surprise that the guns that bombarded the hospitals and fuel and gas tanks prevent the arrival of supplies to these areas.

The Council of Ministers then assessed Lebanese moves in the world and the Arab and world stand on the Lebanese issue and expressed satisfaction with the course this issue is taking. The council views the insistence of certain parties on obstructing the use of international forums to implement UN resolutions, particularly resolution 425, as intended to maintain the pretext for the occupation of southern Lebanon and, consequently, the entrenchment of Syrian occupation of other Lebanese areas. We exhorted the Lebanese people, particularly those in the occupied area, to realize the gravity of this stage and to act to foil the plot against the integrity of Lebanese territory and the unity of the independent national entity.

The Council of Ministers then considered the means of ensuring services and essential needs to support the popular steadfastness on all economic and supply levels.

Al-Huss, Birri Praise Mitterrand's Statement

NC1204143889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] In a step described as a retraction on declared positions, the office of French President Francois Mitterrand issued a statement today. It said: France supports the Arab League endeavors and wishes it success in its mission. France hopes that the Lebanese will return to their country's unity on the basis of reforms which they believe to be necessary.

Commenting on this, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has made the following statement:

I read the statement made by the French president following the French cabinet meeting today. I can only praise the objective, just, and open position expressed in the statement. Undoubtedly, President Mitterrand's underlining of the Arab initiative agrees with the position of all the Lebanese parties, without exception.

Minister Nabih Birri has made a similar statement.

Al-Huss Welcomes French Humanitarian Aid

NC1204203989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Former Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said this afternoon that the Al-Sana'i grouping [Al-Huss-led government in West Beirut] welcomes French humanitarian aid to Lebanon. He thus backed down from his refusal yesterday to accept such aid.

Al-Huss told AFP that we are discussing the practical measures with Kouchner, the French secretary of state for humanitarian action, for ensuring its arrival in Lebanon and its distribution.

France's Kouchner on Evacuating Wounded

NC1304084789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Following his meeting with Dr Salim al-Huss this morning, Bernard Kouchner, French secretary of state for humanitarian action, stated that on the 15th anniversary of the beginning of the Lebanese crisis, we offer the following to the Lebanese as a modest peace initiative. This afternoon helicopters will start evacuating the wounded from the military beach as well as the naval base in Juniyah, he added. We, the French, bow to the sufferings of the Lebanese and cannot but side with all of Lebanon, as President Mitterrand has stated.

2 French Aid Ships Leave Cyprus for Lebanon

LD1304092589 Paris Domestic Service in French 0900 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Bernard Kouchner's mission to bring French aid to Lebanon seems to be making progress. At any rate, the oil-tanker "Penhors" this morning left the Cyprus port of Larnaca. The boat, carrying 6,500 tonnes of fuel in its tanks, is due to supply the main Lebanese power station situated at Zuq Mikha'il on the coast. The "Penhors" is due to go to its destination directly, but for the moment the details and time of its arrival in Lebanon are not known. The same applies to "La Rance," a French Navy hospital ship, which also left Larnaca this morning.

Junblatt Reportedly Objects To Evacuating Wounded

NC1304130089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] This afternoon Walid Junblatt informed Dr Salim al-Huss that he refuses to allow helicopters to land on the military beach and the municipal recreation ground in Juniyah to evacuate wounded persons to the French hospital ship. Shortly before that, Junblatt had received a telephone call from Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Fu'ad Malik Seeks Western Aid To End War

PM1204085489 Paris LE FIGARO in French 10 Apr 89 p 2

[Interview with General Fu'ad Malik, chief of staff of the Lebanese Forces, by Bernard Bonilauri—date, place not given]

[Text] LE FIGARO: Why has the conflict with Syria suddenly worsened? Fu'ad Malik: Michel 'Awn's legal government decided to extend its authority to the illegal ports held by Muslim groups which were causing a veritable economic hemorrhage and which were tarnishing Lebanon's image because of the smuggling which went on at those ports. It is natural for the government to want to regulate its activities and restore the operation of legal port areas. Previous governments had made the same decision but did not implement it. When the present government showed that it intended to implement this measure, the Syrians began to shell the official port and then the Christian districts of Beirut. We were then forced to respond.

LE FIGARO: Is your struggle not like that of David and Goliath?

Fu'ad Malik: We are fighting with odds of 1 to 10, but the civilian population is morally ready to take the consequences of the battle. For 14 years, they have suffered the effects of the Syrian occupation without being able to see any light at the end of the tunnel; the general feeling now is that there is nothing to lose and we must carry things through. The people are tired of living in a country which is in ruins, and which is on a level not with Third World but with Fourth World countries.

LE FIGARO: Clausewitz' statement that "war is the continuation of politics by other means," can be applied to your struggle: What are your objectives?

Fu'ad Malik: The immediate objective is to expel non-Lebanese armies from Lebanon. It is the Syrians who are preventing the establishment of dialogue among the different sections of the Lebanese community. There are internal problems, we know them, and we want to discuss them with our compatriots. Syria is making any discussion impossible, it is preventing us from finding solutions. Above all, Damascus wants to have the situation under its control.

Lebanese-Syrian War

We just hope that the free world will not allow the only democratic nation in the region, aside from Israel, to be crushed, because that would involve the destruction of the oldest Christian community in the world. In view of the balance of forces, we cannot really wage a liberation war. At most we can wage a war of resistance. By exercising economic and diplomatic pressure, the states in the free world have the means of forcing the Syrians to leave Lebanon. The Lebanese must solve their own problems. Our final objective is to rebuild Lebanon on a new basis—a united and pluralist Lebanon which would impose the same rights and the same duties on all its members.

LE FIGARO: What do you think of the Europeans' attitude, more especially the French attitude?

Fu'ad Malik: For 14 years the West did not understand us. When we explained that our objective was to liberate Lebanon, we were accused of trying to defend our privileges. Fortunately the thinking is changing: President Mitterrand's statements, the French Government and most politicians' stance, intellectuals and prominent art figures protests, show that awareness is increasing. This phenomenon is extremely important, because we Lebanese regard France as a great power. It is Europe's driving force. The whole of Europe may move to follow France.

LE FIGARO: In what direction may it move?

Fu'ad Malik: Ultimately as far as sending international troops which would have the mission of ending the conflict. But, to end a war, you must be prepared to wage war. We are not claiming that Europeans should die in our place. The Lebanese are prepared to give their lives to save Lebanon. Unfortunately this sense of sacrifice is no longer enough. We need the West's support.

LE FIGARO: Is Syria your only enemy?

Fu'ad Malik: Let us speak plainly. We are involved in a Lebanese-Syrian war. Although it is a terrorist power and is trying to destabilize the Middle East, Syria is not impervious to world opinion. That is why it is important to state clearly that the Syrians are an occupying force, that the Lebanese Army is fighting with the support of resistance fighters, whereas the Syrian Army has help from collaborators.

Army Continues Shelling Syrian Targets, Kills 4

NC1204182489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] The intensive and indiscriminate Syrian bombardment is being directed first at one area and then another. It is mainly directed at the Kasrawan coast, B'abda, Al-Hadath, Furn al-Shubbak, and Al-'Ashrafiyah. At intermittent intervals this afternoon and

this evening, the shelling hit areas in central Kasrawan, coastal Al-Matn, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Al-Hazimiyah, Jisr al-Basha, Sinn al-Fil, Al-Mukallis, and the vicinity of Beirut Port.

Meanwhile, sporadic but violent clashes continue along the capital's combat lines. Shells are falling in the adjacent residential areas. Bursts of machinegun fire and rocket fire have also been reported on the Suq al-Gharb combat lines.

According to security sources, the gunfire directed against the eastern areas came from souces on the mountain, upper Al-Matn, and West Beirut. The bombardment came chiefly from a rocket launcher in 'Ayn al-Sihhah in the Falugha area, from artillery emplacements in Qubbayah and upper Al-Matn using 130-mm guns, from artillery emplacements in Al-Nahdah Park in West Beirut, and from Harat Hurayk, Burj al-Barajinah, and Al-Raml al-'Ali in the southern suburb.

Security sources have informed Radio Free Lebanon that the Lebanese Army refrained from responding to the Syrian shelling, even after the Syrian aggression extended to the Presidential Palace and the Defense Ministry. However, when the Syrians began to shell residential areas indiscriminately, the Army was forced to respond in order to silence them.

The result of the Army's response until 1600 today is as follows: A Syrian radar in Al-Nahdah Park, a Syrian troop assembly point and three ammunition dumps near the Sultan Ibrahim area, a center housing rocket launchers, a Syrian artillery emplacement in Al-Rawshah, another in 'Armun, and Syrian troop concentrations in 'Armun were all hit. A Syrian artilery emplacement on the football field in Al-Awza'i was destroyed and a Syrian troop assembly point at the airport was also hit.

According to security reports, the Lebanese Army succeeded in scoring a direct hit against the Syrian intelligence center near the Beau Rivage Hotel, kiling three Syrian troops and an officer and wounding several others.

The Syrian bombardment today also resulted in the martyrdom of six people, including Lebanese Army Sergeant Major Antoine Haddad and citizens Tawfiq 'Azuri, Graciella Kokozakis, and Nahlah Khuri Lahhud, wife of Maurice Lahhud who sustained injuries in the attacks. Among the injured were Damien Indrawis Khujah, Josph Shafiq 'Id, Tanius Tony Dahir, and George Sa'd. The last two have already been released from the hospital. Also wounded were Taminah Dakkhur, who was injured in the B'abda area, and Suhaylah Mansur.

4 Killed in Bombardment of Al-Yarzah

NC1304104989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] The security situation flared up before noon today when the eastern areas was indiscriminately bombarded. Shells are falling on the coastal areas of Al-Matn and Kasrawan as well as on villages in southern Al-Matn, the vicinity of Beirut Port, and the outskirts of Al-'Ashrafiyah. A short while ago, some shells fell on Al-Hazimiyah, B'abda, and Beirut Port. The bombardment of Al-Yarzah this morning left four persons dead.

West Beirut media have reported that shells landed on the military beach, the airport road, Al-Manarah, Bi'r Hasan, in the vicinity of Beirut airport, and on 'Ayn al-Muraysah and Al-Sana'i'. The West Beirut sources spoke of two persons being wounded as a result.

Christians Intensify Attacks Against Opponents

NC1304112289 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The Awn-Ja'ja' group has expanded the area of its attacks, pouring treacherous shells on residential areas in Al-Hamra and Al-Sana'i' and claiming some victims. The shelling is being concentrated now on the areas of Al-Zarif, 'A'ishah Bakkar, and Qasqas. The areas of Al-Awza'i, the airport road, the airport periphery, Bi'r Hasan, Hayy Mu'awwad, Al-Shiyah, Al-Mushrafiyah, and Al-Ghubayrah are being subjected to similar shelling from the positions of the 'Awn-Ja'ja' group in the eastern area.

We were informed a short while ago that Khaldah and Al-Dawhah are also being shelled.

Heavy artillery fire is being exchanged in the mountain area following this morning's intermittent shelling and sniper fire. The shelling on Hayy Mu'awwad in the southern suburb resulted in the injury of some citizens. [passage omitted]

We have just been informed by the editorial staff that areas in Duhur al-'Abbadiyah are being shelled by the Al-Yarzah clique positions in the eastern area. [passage omitted]

7 Sailors Wounded in Attack on Soviet Ships

PM1204193589 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Apr 89 First Edition p 3

[Report by correspondent Captain 3d Rank V. Pasyakin: "Incident in Mediterranean"]

[Text] At 1000 [17:00 GMT] hours on 11 April two helicopters bearing Syrian identification marks delivered a missile strike against Soviet auxiliary ships—the seagoing tug SB-524 and the diving boat BM-125, which were approximately 39 miles off the port of Tartus. The main damage was to the BM-125.

Seven men were wounded as a result of the incident and one was contused. The large antisubmarine ship "Krasnyy Kavkaz" and the antisubmarine cruiser "Leningrad," which are in the Mediterranean, hurried to the ships' assistance. Medical aid has been given to the wounded sailors. Two of them have been sent for treatment in Tartus.

The most severe injuries were suffered by Chief Petty Officer in Charge Shkidchenko; there is little hope of Senior Seaman Ye. Senior Midshipman V. Biserov and saving the latter....

The competent organs are investigating the reasons for the incident.

Jakes-Led CSSR Delegation Ends Visit

Joint Communique Issued

JN1204191389 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1743 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Joint communique issued on the visit of Milos Jakes, general secretary of the Czechoslovakian Communist Party Central Committee and head of the Czechoslovak National Front, to the Syrian Arab Republic]

[Text] At President Hafiz al-Asad's invitation, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP] and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, Comrade Milos Jakes, general secretary of the Czechoslovakian Communist Party [CPCZ] Central Committee and head of the Czechoslovak National Front [CZNF], paid an official and friendly visit to the Syrian Arab Republic 10-12 April 1989.

During his stay in Syria Comrade Jakes laid a wreath on the Martyrs Monument of Al-Qunaytirah and visited the liberated city of Al-Qunaytirah and some historic sites, where he was received with a very warm welcome that corresponds to the Syrian people's friendly feelings toward the friendly Czechoslovak people.

The talks between the two leaders, Hafiz al-Asad and Milos Jakes, were conducted in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding. The talks were attended on the Syrian side by Dr Sulayman Qaddah, ASBP assistant regional secretary general; Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister; Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Antoine Jubran, minister of industry; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Diya'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister; Dr Taha Bali, assistant minister of economy.

On the CSSR side, the talks were attended by Jozef Lenart, member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Secretariat; Jaromir Obzina, member of the CPCZ Central Committee and deputy premier of the CSSR Government; Michal Stefanak, member of the CPCZ Central Committee and director of the CPCZ Central Committee International Affairs Department; Jan Sterba, CSSR minister of foreign trade; Jaromir Nehera, CSSR deputy foreign minister; Jirir Nemec, CSSR deputy foreign trade minister; Karel Loebl, CSSR minister of state; and Alois Reznik, CSSR ambassador to Syria.

President Hafiz al-Asad briefed his guest, Comrade Milos Jakes, on the execution of the ASBP's eighth regional conference; the objectives that Syria seeks to achieve; and the achievements it has scored according to the determined tasks in the political, social, and economic fields. He also briefed him on Syria's stand and struggle to achieve a just, permanent, and comprehensive solution to the Middle East question and its determination to confront the imperialist and Zionist plots in the region.

Comrade Milos Jakes briefed President Hafiz al-Asad on the execution of the resolutions of the CPCZ's 17th conference and the major tasks of the policy of reconstruction and developing socialist democracy in the CSSR.

In this regard, he emphasized the importance of the outcome of the CPCZ Central Committee's recent meetings, the importance of the resolutions aimed at activating political and social life, and the work of the CZNF in a manner that will assure the implementation of the political, economic, and social tasks during the current phase in the CSSR.

The two sides reviewed bilateral Syrian-CSSR relations and the horizons of their development. They indicated that these relations are developing successfully in all fields based on the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed by the two countries in Prague in 1985. The two sides affirmed the importance of the summit meetings, which play an important role in developing and strengthening relations in various fields.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction over the developing relations between the ASBP and the CPCZ and between the social and popular organizations in the two countries. They affirmed their desire to continue strengthening and developing these relations in the future.

The two sides evaluated positively their relations in the economic, technical, scientific, and educational fields and affirmed the importance of developing and increasing them for the purpose of joint benefit. The two sides agreed on the importance of overcoming all obstacles in their way and implementing new forms of economic cooperation in accordance with the potentials of the two countries.

President Hafiz al-Asad and Comrade Milos Jakes discussed international issues. They expressed their satisfaction over the positive developments witnessed by the international events recently. They affirmed their determination to support and back them.

On this note, the two sides expressed their readiness to coordinate activities having the goal of establishing a world free of nuclear weapons and violence and to stand by doubling efforts to find a solution to all issues of disarmament, especially completely doing away with nuclear and chemical weapons.

The two sides expressed their concern over the continuing tense situation in the Middle East, which reflects negatively not only on this region, but the whole world. Talks centered on how to establish just, comprehensive, and permanent peace in this region.

On this topic, the two sides strongly condemned the continuing Israeli occupation of the Arab territories and demanded that Israel withdraw from all territories occupied since 1967 and give back the Palestinian Arab people their legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state in accordance with UN resolutions.

They expressed their deep solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people's valiant intifadah [uprising]. They demanded a halt to actions violating the law and justice practiced by the Israeli occupation authorities against the defenseless Arab citizens.

The CSSR and Syrian sides affirmed that the appropriate framework for the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East is the convocation of an international conference under UN aegis, with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO.

Syria and the CSSR voiced their full solidarity with the Lebanese people's struggle for the liberation of all Lebanese territories from Israeli occupation. The two sides firmly insisted on the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

The two sides supported work for the attainment of Lebanese national accord and for safeguarding Lebanon's Arab affiliation, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Both sides also voiced their support for the efforts exerted by the six-member Arab Committee that the Arab League has formed to solve the Lebanese problem.

The two sides highly valued the series of initiatives and proposals the USSR and the other socialist countries have put forth seeking to avert the threat of nuclear war and achieve disarmament, the establishment of a comprehensive system for safeguarding international peace and security, the elimination of hotbeds of tension, and the settlement of regional conflicts.

Upon reviewing the state of affairs in Europe, President Hafiz al-Asad voiced his full support for the CSSR's initiative to establish an area of trust, cooperation, and good-neighborliness along the contact line between the Warsaw Pact and the NATO countries in a manner that will serve to clear the political atmosphere in Europe.

The two sides reiterated their support for the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan. They called for the meticulous abidance by these agreements and for halting foreign interference in Afghanistn's affairs. They also supported the formation of an Afghan government with broad representation in which all the disputing parties will participate to safeguard Afghanistan's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

The two sides condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed the need to intensify international efforts to eradicate it. The two sides are of the opinion that effectively combatting terrorism requires the formulation of a specific definition of terrorism through the international conference that Syria has suggested for defining terrorism and distinguishing between it and peoples' legitimate struggle for their national and social liberation.

The two leaders, Hafiz al-Asad and Milos Jakes, highly valued the Nonaligned Movement's contribution to the preservation of world peace. In this respect, the CSSR side valued the positive and constructive role the Syrian Arab Republic plays within this movement.

The two sides stressed the need for the establishment of a new world economic system and for the restructuring of international economic relations on an equitable and democratic basis. The two sides support endeavors for a just settlement of the problems emanating from the indebtedness of developing countries and call for respect for countries' sovereignty over their national resources.

The CPCZ Central Committee general secretary and head of the CZNF Central Committee expressed his profound thanks for the warm welcome and the great hospitality he was accorded while in Damascus. He also expressed satisfaction with the results of the talks. He extended an invitation to Hafiz al-Asad, ASBP secretary general and Syrian Arab Republic president, to visit the CSSR. The invitation was accepted with satisfaction, and its date will be set later.

Al-Zu'bi Confers With Sterba

JN1204133189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received CSSR Foreign Trade Minister Jan Sterba at 1100 [1800 GMT] today. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, attended the meeting. The talks centered on the close relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to promote them, especially in the economic and trade areas, in order to serve their two countries' mutual interests.

Jakes Departs 12 Apr

JN1204164089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Excerpt] With an official and popular farewell, Comrade Milos Jakes, general secretary of the Czechoslovakian Communist Party Central Committee and head of the Czechoslovak National Front Central Committee, has left Damascus following a 3-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic at the invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad.

Leading those seeing Comrade Jakes off at Damascus International Airport was President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Meets French Official, Dumas Message

JN1304155689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received (Bertrand Dufourque), political director general of the French Foreign Ministry, who conveyed a message from French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

The message expresses French interest in the continuation of dialogue with Syria on Lebanon and other issues in the region in light of what was agreed upon during Al-Shar''s Paris visit. The message stresses that the statements made by French envoy Deniua are not binding for France and do not reflect the French Government's viewpoint.

The message also expresses France's appreciation for Syria's important role in helping Lebanon.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur and the French ambassador in Damascus.

The European troika committee, which includes the directors general for political affairs at the Spanish, French, and Greek foreign ministries, held two working meetings with Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur at the Foreign Ministry yesterday. The European committee stressed the importance of Syria's role and sacrifices in helping the Lebanese people to reach a political solution to the Lebanese and strengthen the current cease-fire.

The troika committee emphasized that the EC states do not think of adopting new ideas that might obstruct the Arab six-member committee's efforts on Lebanon.

Elections Under Israeli Occupation 'Rejected'

JN1304080089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brothers on the path of revolution and liberation: The proposals of Zionist enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to hold elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza under Israeli supervision constitute an exposed and scandalous maneuver which cannot deceive anyone. It also does not serve the cause of peace in the region, because it overlooks the real means which can further the peace process in the region.

As stated in his proposals, Shamir rejects the international peace conference and adheres to direct negotiations as stipulated in the Camp David accords. Shamir also refuses the PLO's participation in any political effort to solve the Palestine question.

Shamir proposes the holding of elections in the occupied territories leading to direct negotiations between the elected Palestinians and the Zionist authorities for the purpose of applying autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza as stipulated in the Camp David accords. This means that through these proposals, which he has been publicising since assuming power last November, Shamir is trying to gain time in his interest and that of his racist entity.

The proposals, which Shamir has tried to polish in Washington, have not brought anything new and do not deviate in their entirety from the provisions of the Camp David accords, which are rejected on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels.

Therefore, holding elections in the West Bank and Gaza in the manner proposed by Shamir is only an exposed and deceptive maneuver, which is primarily aimed at containing the continuous popular intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories, which has disturbed Shamir and the leaders of his government.

This is not the first time the enemy rulers have resorted to maneuvering, deception, and the presentation of ideas and proposals which are essentially aimed at stopping and aborting the intifadah. Shamir's proposals for elections in the West Bank and Gaza have previously been aired by his War Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and were rejected at the time by the masses of the intifadah inside

the occupied homeland and by all of our Palestinian Arab people. Here are the Intifadah masses reaffirming their rejection of Shamir's proposals just as they rejected Rabin's proposals before.

Elections under occupation are rejected, and elections under the policy of tyranny, terrorism, and crime cannot lead to furthering the peace process in the region. There will be no elections as long as the Arab territories are occupied. This is what has been said and reaffirmed by our Palestinian masses in the occupied homeland. The direct and immediate reply to Shamir's proposals was the escalation of our kinfolk's intifadah in the West Bank and Gaza.

Thus, the intifadah has spoken its word loud and cle
the face of Shamir, Rabin, and the other enemy lea
It has spoken its word frankly and clearly: No to
tions under the Israeli occupation of the Arab territo
and no to stopping the intifadah as long as the oc
tion straddles the West Bank and Gaza.

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This is the best answer to Shamir's proposals.
intifidah will continue to be capable of foiling all
posals and plans against the Palestine question.
continuation and escalation of the intifadah in
occupied territories is the means which will eventu
force Shamir and the other enemy rulers to succumb to
our people's demands and legitimate national rights
will of our struggler people will ultimately triumph.

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Afghanistan

Soviet Air Force Bombs Badakhshan Province Areas

LD1204154389 Tehran IRNA in English 1505 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] London, April 12, IRNA—The Soviet Air Force has carried out a heavy bombing raid in liberated areas of Shahr-e Bozorg, in Badakhshan Province, northeastern Afghanistan, inflicting high casualties, according to Afghan Agency Press (AAP) monitored here today.

The air attack is seen as the first of its kind since Moscow completed a total withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan in February this year.

The report said the bombing raid took place on April 8 and resulted in 150 people, including mujahidin, being killed or injured.

Hezb-e Eslami commander, Engineer Bashir, was quoted saying that the aircraft had flown from Soviet territory and conducted severe bombings on the towns of Kol, Barlas and Shangar [placenames as received].

Reports also suggest that the Indian Airforce is also involved in Afghanistan, and according to reliable sources, Indian pilots bombed mujahidin positions around besieged Jalalabad earlier this month.

Protest Lodged With Pakistan on Helicopter

LD1304065889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 12, BAKHTAR—The ad interim charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and the following was conveyed to him by the care-taker of the First Political Office of that ministry.

According to the report of the security authorities of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan], on April 11 two Pakistani helicopters while flying at a low altitude entered via Towr Kham to the airspace of the RA and after landing a number of Arab and Pakistani military advisors at the outskirts of Jalalabad and short stopover left Afghanistan for Pakistan from the same direction.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan while launching its strong protest against such violations, which contradict international norms and provisions of the Geneva agreements, to Pakistan and asks it to prevent such aggressions in future. Otherwise their grave consequences will remain on the responsible Pakistani authorities.

Pakistani Envoy Summoned to Foreign Ministry

LD1204173389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] The Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry this morning, and the following points were conveyed to him by the officer in charge of the First Political Department.

According to a report by security officers, three Pakistani low-flying helicopters entered Afghan teritory at 1615 yesterday by way of Towr Kham and landed a number of Pakistani and Arab advisers for the intensification of combat operations around Jalalabad. They returned to Pakistan by the same route after a brief stop.

The Republic of Afghanistan lodged a strong protest against these types of acts which are against internationally accepted norms and the Geneva agreements and seriously demanded that these types of offensives and violations stop immediately, otherwise responsiblity will rest with responsible authorities of Pakistan.

Leader of Hikmatyar Group Kills 'Arab Advisers'

LD1204164789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Burhan, a ringleader of the Gulbuddin group, killed a number of Pakistani troops and Arab advisers in defiance of Pakistani military orders in the Ghaziabad area of Nangarhar Province on 9 April.

Reports received by the military section of BIA say Burhan had instructions from Pakistani military and intelligence to take part in the attacks on the city of Jalalabad from Rodat District. Seeing repeated defeats of Pakistani militia and of the extremist warmongers he defied the orders of Pakistani military and hid himself in camps across the border. The report adds that Burhan was arrested by Pakistani intelligence and was taken against his will to Ghaziabad by the Pakistani military.

According to another report, recently there was heavy fighting between a group associated with the Khalis group—headed by Sarhadar—and groups associated with Itehad—headed by Ghaleb—in Nangarhar Province. In the fighting, five members of Itehad, including an Arab adviser and two people associated with the Khalis group, were killed.

Iran-Based Mujahidin Reject UN Presence

LD1204130189 Tehran IRNA in English 1243 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—Spokesman of the eight-party coalition of the Afghan mujahidin, Muhammad Karim Khalili Wednesday rejected intervention of foreign powers in Afghanistan and the U.N. plan for stationing international forces on Afghan borders.

At a press conference attended by foreign and domestic reporters, he said the coalition was against any plan which may turn the Afghan issue into a regional or an international one. "If foreign powers stop interfering, Afghan Muslims, in a short period of time will overthrow the Kabul regime," Khalili told reporters.

On the Marxist regime's bombardment of mujahidin positions around Jalalabad and Kabul, he said a group of Soviet advisors were still at military centers in Afghanistan and the raids have been carried out by Soviet pilots.

On the Coalition Council's liberation operations, he said areas under control of the Iran-based mujahidin forces in north and west Afghanistan are presently in the grip of severe cold, and as soon as the snow melts conditions will be right for operations.

"Forces of the Coalition Council in Meydan Province [as received] and Ghazni and also north of Kabul are all set for operations so that we can open up a new front near Kabul in short time." he added

Turning to the regime's access to Scud-B missiles and chemical bombs, he said the missiles are not effective in mountainous areas where the mujahidin are. "Rather they are a threat to Afghanistan's neighbours and recent firing of a missile on a military area in Pakistan proves this assumption," Khalili told reporters.

As for chemical weapons, he said the Kabul regime, in the past has used them against mujahidin and civilian people alike. Re-deployment of these arms shows the weakness and despair of the regime, he added.

On the slowed down efforts to liberate Jalalabad, of mujahidin under the command of the Peshawar-based 7-party Pashto alliance, he said that rather than implying the power of the Kabul regime, it is indicative of weakness in planning and coordination on the side of the self-declared interim government.

Khalili termed as "failure" the two-month old performance of the interim government.

"Its failure in gaining a political status inside and outside the country, proves that the Peshawar-based alliance is unrealistic towards certain issues," he said. This, he stressed will result in waste of time and delay in victory of the Afghan Muslims.

The only solution he said is formulating a proper plan which includes all mujahidin groups and parties.

The 7-party Pashto alliance, which has ignored the rights of other Afghan groups, represents only a third of all Afghanistan, the other two thirds is composed of tribes such as Hazaras, Turks, Turkomans, Baluch and the million odd urbanised Qizilbash.

The Persian speaking Hazars who form the second largest ethnic group in Afghanistan, dominate the Iran-based 8-party coalition, and are in control of large areas of Afghanistan.

The fact that so far only three countries have officially recognized the interim government shows its lack of success which includes only certain groups of the mujahidin, concluded Khalili.

Mujahidin 'Cabinet' Holds Meeting Inside Country

BK1204162589 Hong Kong AFP in English 121622 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Islamabad, April 12 (AFP)—The cabinet of the mujahidin interim government began a three-day meeting inside Afghanistan Wednesday, the pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) said.

The cabinet meeting was chaired by government Chairman Sebghatullah Mojaddedi and Prime Minister 'Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf was also present, ANA said.

The ministers were to review important national and international issues and discuss the battle situation, the agency said. Important decisions would be announced Friday, it added. It did not say where in Afghanistan the cabinet was meeting.

(The foreign minister of the interim government, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, currently on an Asian tour seeking recognition for the interim government formed in Pakistan in February, said Wednesday in Singapore that the resistance would transfer its government into Afghanistan within a few days.)

Malaysia on Wednesday became the fourth country to recognise the mujahidin government after Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Bahrain.

The mujahidin government had held its first session March 10 at Shewai camp in the eastern Afghanistan province of Paktia.

Mujahidin Liberate Areas of Herat Province

LD1204131989 Tehran IRNA in English 1257 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Mashhad, April 12, IRNA—Afghan mujahidin captured a Kabul regime's commander and 800 paramilitary troops when they took over a military base in Ghurian, Herat Province in Western Afghanistan, over the past three days.

During the operation mujahidin liberated Tirkash [placename as received] village, seizing a large amount of weapons and munitions including 570 pieces of heavy and light guns, 83 anti-aircraft guns, howitzers, mortar launchers and seven vehicles, reliable sources said.

Two mujahidin were killed and three others wounded during the attack, the sources added.

The Peshawar-based Pashto alliance which has hastily declared an interim government is confined mainly to the eastern parts, while the rest of liberated Afghanistan is in the control of various other mujahidin groups, the largest of which is the Iran-based eight-group coalition.

Mujahidin Shoot Down 2 Jets Near Jalalabad
LD1204142789 Tehran IRNA in English 1405 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Islamabad, April 12, IRNA—Two Afghan jet fighters were shot down near Jalalabad by mujahidin Tuesday [11 April]

Sources close to the mujahidin said that Muslim revolutionaries continued their attacks on government forces in the besieged eastern city, capturing five security outposts.

The mujahidin also managed to seize 16 other security outposts in Paktia Province Monday, killing 45 government soldiers and setting ablaze an ammunition depot plus eight tanks and armoured personnel carriers, the sources said.

Mujahidin Intensify Pressure on Jalalabad, Khowst
BK1204153089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1528 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 12 (AFP)—Mujahidin fighters kept up heavy shelling of the eastern cities of Jalalabad and Khowst Wednesday, officials said here.

The Kabul government summoned the Pakistani charge d'affaires here to protest the landing of two Pakistani helicopters at Samar Kheyl, a military base on the outskirts of Jalalabad which fell to the mujahidin in March.

"Two helicopters carrying Pakistani and Saudi military advisors landed at Samar Kheyl yesterday (Tuesday) and the Pakistan charge was summoned to receive a strong protest note," Foreign Affairs spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said.

In Jalalabad, which has been under siege from the mujahidin hoping to use it as a base for their interim government for more than a month, intense shelling from the west of the city and its outposts had destroyed an olive oil processing factory and 11 shops and left 19 civilians dead and 15 injured, the spokesman said.

No military casualties were reported but heavy bombing and shelling had left 271 mujahidin dead and 201 injured, the spokesman said.

(The resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) said in Islamabad that three Scud missiles fired by the Afghan Army Wednesday failed to hit mujahidin positions but destroyed houses in Chaparhar, south of Jalalabad.)

Few details were available on the battle for the city of Khowst, which has been under attack for two days.

"Rocket and infantry attacks continue, but the enemy has been unable to advance," the spokesman said. No casualty reports were available, he added.

The western city of Herat also came under rocket attack but no casualties were reported, the spokesman said.

He also said that 32 people were killed and eight wounded when two groups of mujahidin fought among themselves in southern Qandahar Province.

Government offcials took Western journalists on a brief tour of part of Kabul's defence perimeter, which consist of a three-ring defence system reinforced with hill-top outposts.

The journalists said some of the outposts on the second defence ring were manned by units of women's militia, and others by volunteers as well as regular Army troops.

Kabul Notes Shelling, Attacks by Enemy Forces
LD1204184889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] As a result of heavy weapons shelling by the 11th and 18th Divisions of the Pakistani Army and armed groups protected by Pakistan, the olive processing factory of Nangarhar Province was destroyed by fire yesterday.

A competent source of the Afghan Armed Forces reported to the BIA military section that yesterday the joint Pakistani forces and the Wahhabi forces attached to Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, under the cover of artillery fire by the 11th and 18th Divisions of Pakistan, carried out a wide-scale attack from the direction of Kahan, Qetraghai, and Sorkhrud regions and, after meeting strong resistance form the subunits of the Afghan Armed Forces, they were forced to halt and retreat from the defensive lines in the above-mentioned regions.

As a result of heavy weapons shelling, 9 of the inhabitants were martyred and another 15 were injured, and 11 houses and one shop were destroyed. The Afghan Armed Forces did not suffer any loss of life. The Afghan Armed Forces retaliated and inflicted crushing blows on the concentration points, depots, and fortifications of the enemy. As a result, 271 men of the enemy forces were killed and another 201 of them wounded. Moreover, 11 mortars, 4 BM-2 units, 18 rocket launchers, 3 ZK-1's, 2 command points, 3 strongholds, 2 weapons and ammunition depots, and 6 motor vehicles loaded with enemy weapons and ammunition were destroyed.

According to another report from the same source, fierce attacks by joint Pakistani forces and armed groups protected by Pakistan have been going on in Paktia Province and Khowst Major District. However, they did not succeed in advancing as a result of strong and courageous resistance by the Armed Forces subunits.

Shelling by heavy weapons in Paktia and Herat Provinces did not result in any loss of life. Due to retaliatory shellings of the enemy positions by the Afghan forces, four of the enemy were killed and five were wounded. One of their weapons and ammunition depot was set on fire.

Another extremist group near Samangan Province came under heavy retaliatory blows by the Armed Forces. As a result of this combat operation, three of the armed men, including one of their ringleaders, were killed and another six of them possessing six various weapons were arrested.

According to another report, fierce clashes took place between armed men attached to the Sayyaf Wahhabi group and Gulbuddin group in the environs of Arghandab District, Qandahar Province. As a result, 34 men of the belligerent parties were killed and another 8 of their men were wounded. One motor vehicle loaded with weapons and ammunition belonging to these groups and a large amount of ammunition were destroyed.

Notices Nos 398-400 Submitted to UNGOMAP

LD1304081589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0436 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 12, BAKHTAR—Three more notices number 398th-400th of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] on flagrant violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords were submitted to the office of the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today.

In the notices 9 instances of Pakistani violations of Article 2, Document Number 1 of the Geneva accords are mentioned to the UNGOMAP.

The mission is demanded that as per Para 7, Document Number 4 of the Geneva accords assess the said violations and convey results of its findings to the Afghan side and representative of the UN secretary general immediately.

It must be mentioned here that since the signing of the accords 3329 instances of violations by Pakistan of the said were brought by 400 notices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the RA to the attention of the mission.

Pakistani Journalist Interviews Najibullah

LD1304082189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0437 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 12, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, received Ebrahim Sahed, a Pakistani reporter of daily news MASAWAT [name as received], for an interview in the presidential office today. President Najibullah replied to the questions of the journalist.

Soviet Republics Delegation Meets Najibullah

LD1204215189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Afghan President Najibullah met with the high-ranking government delegation from the Soviet Union, led by the deputy chairmen of the councils of ministers of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tadzhikistan, this morning at the Presidential Office Headquarters

Present at this meeting were Sarsar Mangal, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan, and Y. Vorontsov, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the Soviet Union to the Republic of Afghanistan. Usmanov, the deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Tadzhik Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR]; Annayev, the deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Turkmen SSR; and Abdurakhmanov, the deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR, discussed direct cooperation on the part of the above republics with some provinces of the Republic of Afghanistan. They promised increased cooperation in various socioeconomic fields.

In expressing his appreciation for the direct assistance and cooperation from the Soviet Central Asian republics with the provinces of Afghanistan, esteemed Najibullah urged further direct cooperation and consolidation of friendly relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Confers With Keshtmand

LD1304081689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0421 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul 12 April, BAKHTAR—Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Afghan Council of Ministers' Executive Committee, met a delegation from Soviet Asian republics here on Tuesday [11 April]. The Soviet delegation is visiting Afghanistan on invitation from the Afghan Government.

The sides discussed ways of expanding bilateral social and economic contacts and friendly ties between the Soviet Asian republics and neighbouring Afghan provinces.

Wakil Attends UN Security Council Session

LD1204202189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil took part in an emergency session of the UN Security Council which was convened to assess Pakistan's interference into Afghanistan's internal affairs and incursions. The meeting took place on 11 April at Afghanistan's request.

The Afghan foreign minister delivered a detailed speech to the session which was attended by His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar and a large number of permanent representatives to the United Nations. He drew the Security Council's attention to the dangerous situation caused by Pakistan's interference and incursions into the Republic of Afghanistan, particularly into the border provinces.

The foreign minister said the intensification of Pakistan's military violations, which are a clear infringement of all accepted international norms and principles and the principles agreed upon in the Geneva instruments and accords, have changed from being a 10-year-old imposed war to an all-out war by Pakistan against the Republic of Afghanistan. The concentration of Pakistani Armed Forces' Divisions 11 and 18 and the extensive participation by Pakistani military intelligence advisers in the fighting around Jalalabad are irrefutable proof of Pakistani violations and interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

It has endangered international peace and security. The patriotic Afghan people will never accept the fact that a number of Pakistani military intelligence spies can direct the fate of the Afghan people. The Afghan people have resolutely and selflessly struggled for lofty national interests and will defend their national traditions, pride, and dignity. The gallant resistance of the people against Pakistan's interference and violations have caused all the opposition's sinister wishes to fail.

After Wakil detailed facts and figures on Pakistan's interference and violations, the UN Security Council was asked to take all possible measures and urgent steps to stop Pakistan's intervention and violations against the Republic of Afghanistan. Similarly, it was proposed that the Security Council should send a fact-finding delegation to the Republic of Afghanistan. Also, the USSR and the United States, the guarantors of the Geneva accords, were asked to play an active role in compelling Pakistan to observe fully the Geneva agreements.

In the current Security Council session Iqbal Akhund, adviser to the Pakistani president on foreign affairs and national security, led the Pakistani delegation. The Security Council will continue its discussion of the issue raised by the Republic of Afghanistan.

According to another report, Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil had separate meetings with the permanent representatives from Algeria, Colombia, Brazil, Ethiopia, and Finland, who are members of the UN Security Council, and talked and exchanged views with them on the issues of interests.

Deputy Foreign Minister Reviews Developments

AU1104142889 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 10 Apr 89 p 6

[Interview with Faruq Karmand, deputy minister of foreign affairs, by RABOTNICHESKO DELO special correspondent Volodya Stratiev in Kabul on 9 April: "Political Solutions Are the Only Way"]

[Text] The future course of development of the Afghanistan situation depends on a number of external factors, on Afghanistan's relations with her neighbors and with entire groups of countries, and on the general international climate. This is why I approached Faruq Karmand, deputy minister of foreign affairs of Afghanistan, for an informed assessment of these problems.

[Stratiev] Comrade Karmand, would you kindly define the main principles of the foreign policy of the Republic of Afghanistan and, in particular, give an assessment of Afghanistan's relations with Iran and Pakistan?

[Karmand] We are doing everything possible to normalize relations with our neighbors. We have made a number of constructive proposals to Iran aimed at normalizing relations. Our attitude toward Pakistan is in principle the same.

As you know, Afghanistan did much to ensure the signing of the Geneva accords in order that they might become a basis for normalizing relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan. We hoped that on this basis, Pakistan would stop her interference in our country's internal affairs. Unfortunately, her refusal to stop has led to a considerable expansion of the interference. Pakistan is using the Geneva accords solely to achieve one aim—the withdrawal of the Soviet troops, and is disregarding the accepted obligations.

[Stratiev] What is the precise situation concerning the return of the refugees?

[Karmand] Whereas previously, when we announced our policy of national reconciliation, they simply blocked the way for them to return, now the Pakistani militia, police, and Army are forcibly making them stay in the camps. If anyone, or perhaps a family or group of people, decides to make his way by a roundabout route to Afghanistan, then the harshest penalties, including shooting, await him if he is caught. These punishments are very often carried out by the Afghan extremists themselves. In short, many obstacles have been placed in the way of the Afghan refugees wanting to return.

[Stratiev] It is well-known that the Republic of Afghanistan proposed a number of initiatives on the international level aimed at settling the situation in and around Afghanistan by political means. What is the reaction to these proposals and will there be any new initiatives?

[Karmand] On 2 April this year, Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil sent a letter to the chairman of the UN Security Council, in which he asked for a special session to be convened in connection with the situation on the Afghan-Pakistani border and the interference in our internal affairs. On 3 April the foreign minister departed for New York with a message to the UN secretary general from Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan. This document called on the world organization to take urgent measures to avert the tension on the border with Pakistan and to ensure that the Geneva accords are fulfilled not only by our country, but also by our neighbors, Pakistan in particular.

The message pointed out that the United Nations should set up additional observation posts along the border to enable them to monitor observance of the agreements. The letter also included an invitation to the UN secretary general to visit Kabul again to enable him on the spot to promote contacts with Islamabad. These are our latest proposals.

[Stratiev] Are you planning any actions to more actively involve the Nonaligned Movement in resolving the complex problems surrounding Afghanistan?

[Karman] We are waiting for initiatives from the Nonaligned Movement. Many of the member countries consider that the movement should adopt a more active position because interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan is becoming increasingly evident. The peace-loving countries in the movement, such as India, Zimbabwe, Yugoslavia, Cyprus, and others, are not indifferent toward this. President Najibullah recently received a message from Robert Mugabe in which the latter condemned the breaches of the Geneva accords by Pakistan and stressed that measures will be taken, in parallel with those of the United Nations, aimed at fulfilling the Geneva accords.

[Stratiev] However, the same cannot be said of the Islamic Conference Organization....

[Karman] Yes, unfortunately the situation concerning this organization is different. Of course, there are many countries that have realistic attitudes toward the Afghanistan problem, and these countries did not remain silent at the recent session but stated their principled position and support for the Republic of Afghanistan. Unfortunately, Saudi Arabia, making use of its authority and its financial possibilities, adopted an extremely negative viewpoint and exerted strong pressure on certain other countries to acknowledge the opposition government formed in Rawalpindi. However, Saudi Arabia's and Pakistan's attempts failed to produced the results they expected.

Now 40 days have passed since the rebel government was set up, and it has been recognized by three states. As far as the question of transferring the seat of the Republic of Afghanistan in the organization to the rebel government is concerned, many of the organization's member countries stated their opposition to this. In the final event, the wording was that the seat is granted to the Afghan mujahidin, with which, of course, we do not agree.

This seat used to belong to Afghanistan, and the foreign ministers' session should return this seat to the lawful Afghan Government. As is well-known, our country's membership in the organization was canceled in Pakistan in 1980, under the pretext that foreign troops were present in our country. Paradoxically, now, after the Soviet troops have withdrawn, the Islamic Conference Organization did not return this seat to the lawful government.

Bangladesh

SANGBAD Article Views Political Situation

BK1104144989 Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali 3 Apr 89 p 4

[Article by Samsur Rahman: "Nothing Is Easy Anymore"]

[Excerpts] The time goes fast. Seven years have gone by and during this 7 year period the government of honorable President Ershad continued its forward march without a break. There were, however, shake ups in this march, but theu were not strong enough to topple the present government. It should be noted that the "Remove Ershad" movement launched in 1987-88 was not successful. Naturally, therefore, a question crops up in the mind as to why the opposition parties could not make that movement successful.

I feel that we do not currently have a versatile leader among us in the political field. If we had a charismatic leader like Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman or Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani [leaders who fought for Bangladesh's independence], the 1-Point Movement [seeking Ershad's resignation] would not be lying with its head down like a wounded horse.

We do not currently have virtually anything in the country which can be identified as a movement. Everything has become stale. Many people thought that President Ershad would not be successful in handling the problems and crises caused by the unprecedented floods. Fears were also expressed that the country might experience famine. But it can now be said that President Ershad has overcome these crises and the nation's situation is not that critical. He was able to solve the after-effects of the floods with the help of massive

foreign aid. Although America wants free and fair elections in Bangladesh, it is not buying the opposition demand for President Ershad's resignation because it feels that the demand is unreasonable.

President Ershad is not popular among the people of his country. It would not be wrong to say that he has failed to win their hearts. We also have to admit that, like the above fact, the people have several doubts in their minds about Sheikh Hasina, the eight party-alliance leader, and Mrs Khaleda Zia, the leader of the seven-party alliance. They have also failed to win the full confidence of the people. Instead of working for the interests of the people and the nation, these two leaders are very much engrossed in looking after their own party's interests. They mostly engage in mutual mudslinging and thereby only benefit the present government and make the people unhappy.

To tell the truth, the position of both the parties and their leaders has weakened compared with earlier occasions. They enthusiastically sowed the seeds of dissension when the need for unity between them was very much required. Moreover, they have not placed any alternate program of action before the people. It seems to us that they do not even have any kind of framework for a partyless, neutral government. Moreover, many people know that the internal crises of these two parties are gradually increasing. After all this, how can the people rely on them? [passage omitted]

The people of this country are not happy with the activities of the present government and they want a change. How can this change be brought about? We think that it can come either through a revolution or an election, and both these avenues are open to the people of this country. I am eliminating the possibility of a revolution because the current situation in the country is not congenial for staging a revolution. There is not a single party in the country which can give a lead to the people on a revolutionary path. We have also noticed that unlike 1969 [when Bangladesh was part of Pakistan and Yahya Khan staged a coup] no coup d'etat was staged in 1987-88. In that historic coup d'etat the so-called development decade and the throne of ironmen like "Field Marshal" Ayub Khan were swept away.

The talks on movement and coups have not stopped. When people gossip on these subjects, it is known to everyone that a coup will not take place so easily and the prospects for staging such a act are also not visible in the near future. In fact, now the position is that nothing can be done so easily.

However, many people are interested in elections. Sheikh Hasina and Mrs Khaleda Zia do not directly oppose the holding of elections. In fact, Khaleda Zia has asked her party workers at the Bangladesh Nationalist Party council meeting to be prepared for elections. The questions, which are raised, are not about holding elections, but about processes and procedures. What will we gain from holding new elections if acceptable procedures for free and fair voting are not observed? It will basically depend on the strength of the opposition parties, their joint efforts, and the pressure of the movement they launched to bring the outcome of the election in their favor. The opposition parties should always remember that the people are the source of their strength. But we do not notice their initiatives being directed in that sphere.

In this situation, the United States and other foreign powers have shown interest in holding elections in Bangladesh. They want a lawful, stable government to come to power in the country . Thus, they are trying to influence the government and the opposition to hold an election. We know that Mr Solarz met President Ershad, Sheikh Hasina, and Khaleda Zia, and held talks with them on various issues, including elections. President Ershad is interested in holding elections, but on one condition. There can be talks on anything besides a demand for his resignation, as he puts it. Reliable sources said the government is ready to make several concessions.

It may be recalled that Ershad had already made earlier proposals of this type to the opposition parties. He said the same thing in November 1987, not openly of course, but separately to different parties. However, at that time the opposition parties did not pay any heed to these proposals because they thought President Ershad's downfall was inevitable. But the opposition assessment proved to be wrong and he happily remained in power.

Then, 1 and ½ years passed. The on-going opposition movement lost its momentum and the opposition could not create any situation which could cause concern to the president. Now no one is discarding the idea of elections. The opposition is ready to take part but not under President Ershad. However, many people do not give any importance to their statements in this regard.

President Ershad is not bound to hold the elections because no such demand is being made inside the country. He is speaking about elections only because American circles are putting pressure on him. Noting differing opinions among the opposition groups on the issue of election, he will be able to make the American leaders understand that it is the opposition parties which are creating the problem. He is always eager to hold elections.

It is an undeniable fact that the path of elections should be chosen immediately for the restoration of the democratic system and democratic conditions in the country. But these elections should be free and fair. [passage omitted]

Victory through elections is possible in our country unless, of course, President Ershad and his administration obstruct this process. If General Ershad sincerely wants free and fair elections to be held, then he must keep the election booths free from the interference of

musclemen, government officials, and other forces. In other words, it is absolutely necessary to get the assurance that the president and his government will remain completely neutral in the matter of election procedures.

An election commission should be formed with persons who have the confidence of the Supreme Court and political parties. It may be necessary to set up an international observers' team with full rights to supervise and pass judgment as to whether or not the elections have been held properly. The election commission will be the supreme organ when the elections are in progress and the administration cannot issue warnings siding with one group. Vote counting will be done locally and the officers will announce the results after signing official papers.

We talk about international observers, but how many foreign observers can inspect such a large number of booths set up in 55,000 square miles of the country? It will not be possible to have a huge international observers' team so that its members can go to each and every booth. Therefore, people's committees are to be set up everywhere in the country for supervising the work. To perform this task the opposition will have to unite for a greater cause. The opposition parties will also have to give assurances that, like kidnapping of the agents with the help of musclemen, they will not try to capture the booths.

Despite all these, an election can be foiled if the government is defeated. A burned child dreads the fire. But it is certain that the verdict of the voters in a free and fair election will answer the question of which party is popular and to what extent. However, we should not give up if finally the elections are not held. The struggle for the restoration of democracy should continue by uniting the people. It is not easy to win in this war. In fact, nothing is easy any more, and because it is not easy, to attend that cherished goal becomes such a valuable thing.

India

Allegations on Troops in Afghanistan 'Puzzling'

BK1204144889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] India described as puzzling the reported allegations by certain sections of Afghan rebels about the so-called presence of Indian military personnel in Afghanistan.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that India has categorically denied such allegations and stated that Indian pilots and military personnel have never been engaged in providing support to the Afghan Air Force or the government.

Dalai Lama Calls for Negotiated Settlement

BK1204151489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1459 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] New Delhi, April 12 (AFP)—The Dalai Lama's bureau here urged China Wednesday to negotiate a settlement to the Tibetan conflict, affirming that obstacles blocking talks could be overcome.

"Tibetans in Tibet are dying and suffering. It is imperative that we seek a peaceful and negotiated solution," the bureau said in a statement here.

"The Chinese leadership must take note of the new trend in the world to peacefully solve both international and national disputes by responding positively to the peace initiatives taken by His Holiness the Dalai Lama," it said.

It was referring to a speech by the the Dalai Lama in June at the European Parliament in Strasbourg when the Tibetan spiritual leader proposed that China oversee Tibetan foreign affairs and defence and grant the region autonomy in all other areas.

China had responded in September that it was willing to open negotiations with the Dalai Lama or his representatives, the Tibetan statement said. The bureau then suggested that negotiations begin in January in Geneva.

Wednesday's statement said talks were blocked by Chinese insistence that independence could not be the basis for negotiations, that the negotiating team must represent the Dalai Lama and not the Tibetan government-in-exile and that there should be no foreigners in the Tibetan delegation.

The Dalai Lama's bureau said it had conveyed to China on several occasions through the Chinese Embassy here that the Strasbourg proposals contained the "positive notion of association with the People's Republic."

The Tibetan negotiating team had been appointed by the Dalai Lama, who had the right to name whomever he considered competent to represent him, the statement said.

On the third point, China was told that there was no "third-party participation" in the negotiating team but only foreign advisers, the bureau said. "It is therefore clear that there are no insurmountable obstacles to start the negotiations if the Government of China is willing and sincere in finding a peaceful solution," the bureau's statement said.

It said China's sincerity in resolving the Tibetan issue would be seriously questioned if it did not seek a solution through talks.

The Dalai Lama's bureau has previously rejected talks that were not based on the Strasbourg proposals.

Tibetan militants have objected to the Dalai Lama's proposals for a negotiated settlement following the imposition of martial law in Lhasa on March 8 after three days of anti-Chinese unrest which left 16 people dead by official count, but up to 60 according to Western travellers in the Tibetan capital.

The unrest came in the run-up to the 30th anniversary of a failed uprising against Chinese rule which sent the Dalai Lama fleeing into exile in India, where he lives with some 100,000 followers.

Spokesman on IPKF Role in LTTE Surrender

BK1204145989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the peacekeeping force [PKF] in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka will not do anything to hinder the process of surrender by LTTE cadres. He was responding to newsmen's queries about the unilateral cease-fire announced by the Sri Lankan Government. He said India has no indications that the LTTE cadres are ready to give themselves up. However, the peacekeeping force will provide all help to those who surrender.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Government has also announced a number of centers where the LTTE can come and surrender.

Polish Vice President Meets Gandhi 12 Apr

BK1204150289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] The vice president of Poland, Dr Tadeusz Szelachowski, called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today. The two leaders reviewed the bilateral relations on which both expressed satisfaction. The Polish vice president informed Mr Gandhi about the recent political and constitutional changes in his country.

Dr Szelachowski is on a weeklong visit to this country at the invitation of the vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma.

Greek President Calls Visit 'Successful'

NC1204220789 Nicosia Television Service in Greek 1730 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Statement by Greek President Yeoryios Vasiliou to unidentified Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation correspondent in New Delhi on 12 April—recorded]

[Text] I believe that our visit here has been exceptionally successful. We have met with complete understanding regarding the Cyprus problem, and we can feel sure that India will remain a steadfast supporter of our efforts for a just and viable solution. At the same time, we had the opportunity to discuss at length possibilities for developing bilateral relations, particularly in the economic field. We agreed to sign an agreement for economic cooperation, and this will take place tomorrow. At the same time, the businessmen accompanying me will have a number of meetings with Indian businessmen.

We also discussed various other aspects of cooperation at the international level within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement and the Commonwealth. We ascertained our views are identical in these areas, and we agreed on how to cooperate.

Agreement on FRG Assistance Signed in New Delhi

BK1304040089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] West Germany will provide India an assistance of about 644 crore rupees during the current year. Of this, 312 crore rupees will be on soft term. An agreement to this effect was signed in New Delhi yesterday by the finance secretary, Mr G.K. Arora; and the West German ambassador to India, Mr Konrad Seitz. An official press release says the assistance will be used for the Dadri power plant, modernization of the Rourkela Steel Plant, and for providing additional assistance to ongoing projects. The Federal Republic of Germany is the second largest bilateral donor, after Japan.

Cabinet Subcommittee Discusses Punjab Situation

BK1204161289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] The cabinet subcommittee on Punjab visited Chandigarh today to ascertain the views of various political parties on the different aspects of the Punjab problem and ways to restore normalcy in the state.

Our Chandigarh correspondent, P.J. Trehan, understands that there was general consensus during the meeting of the subcommittee with the political leaders that the Rajiv-Longowal accord should form the basis for any future political settlement. The general view was that this is the right time to make concerted efforts involving all shades of opinion to find a permanent political solution to the Punjab problem.

The members of the cabinet subcommittee explained to the political parties that the aim was to bring together all like-minded forces to create an atmosphere conducive for countering the fundamentalist and secessionist tendencies.

The committee members made it clear that the on-going process to solve the problem will never cease. They felt that they have shown their sincerity by meeting different shades of opinion. They also felt that the parties, which did not respond to the invitation, have lost an opportunity.

The eight-member subcommittee headed by the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, met the senior leaders of political parties of Punjab, Haryana and the union territory of Chandigarh separately. They included the Congress-I, CPI, CPI-M, BJP [Bharatiya Janata

Party], the Republic Party of India, the Akali Dal-Pheruman, Akali Dal-Master Tara Singh, All India Yuvo Janata Dal [Youth Wing of Janata Dal], and the Chandigarh unit of the Janata Dal. The leaders of the Punjab unit of Janata Dal also came to meet the committee, but could not do so because of some last minute change in the program. They, however, met the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, who is also a member of the committee. They submitted memoranda to the committee expressing their views.

The other members of the committee are the union ministers, Mr K.C. Pant, Mr S.B. Chavan, Mr Vengala Rao, Mr Ram Niwas Mirdha, Mrs Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, and Mr P. Chidambaram.

Gandhi Says Center Ready To Discuss Punjab Issue

BK1304091989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that the Center is ready for talks with any group or person in Punjab who is ready to shun violence. Talking to newsmen at Sharhan in Himachal Pradesh today, the prime minister said assistance to terrorists in Punjab across the border has been considerably reduced. He said that the Pakistan prime minister, Mrs Benazir Bhutto, has taken various positive steps in this direction despite constraints. He said the Akali boycott of the talks with the cabinet subcommittee was a negative approach and shows that they are not interested in any solution to the Punjab problem.

Later, Mr Rajiv Gandhi laid the foundation stone of the 1,500 mw (Nagpa-Jhakri) hydroelectric project in Himachal Pradesh. The AIR [All India Radio] correspondent, G.S. Randhawa, reports from (Jhakri), the 2,200 crore rupee project is going to be 1 and ½ times bigger than the Bhakra project in terms of power generation. The Center and the state governments will jointly execute the project in 7 to 8 years. The World Bank has already sanctioned 700 crore rupees for this project. When completed, it will generate over 74 crore units of power annually. Himachal Pradesh will get 12 percent of free power in addition to 20 percent power at cheaper rates.

Punjab Security Forces Kill 'Hardcore Terrorist'

BK1304033889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] In Punjab, a hardcore terrorist—Jagdish Singh, alias Gurnam Singh—has been killed in an encounter with security forces. A huge quantity of arms and ammunition, including machinegun, rocket launcher, 1,300 rounds of ammunition, and over 11 kg of explosives was recovered from the car in which he was traveling.

In Ludhiana city, two scooter-borne terrorists opened fire outside a hotel, killing four persons and injuring a woman.

Bombay Police Seize 22 Kg of 'Brown Sugar'

BK1304093589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] In Bombay, 22 kg of brown sugar [heroin] was seized by the Nagpara police yesterday. It is valued at 22 crore rupees in the international market.

Acting on a tip-off, the police nabbed a person near the J.J. Hospital and recovered 1 kg of brown sugar from him. After getting a clue from him, police laid a trap and caught another man red-handed with 2 kg of narcotics and 85,000 rupees cash from his person. Later, they also recovered 19 kg of the drug from his residence in Versova in northwest Bombay.

Iran

Montazeri's Son Said Arrested on Khomeyni Orders

NC1304125189 Paris AFP in English 1228 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, April 13 (AFP)—Iranian Revolutionary Guards recently arrested the son of the former successor-designate to spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, an Iranian opposition group said here Thursday.

The Baghdad-based Mojahedin-e Khalq group said Seyyed Montazeri, son of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, and the cleric's son-in-law Hadi Hashemi were seized under "personal orders" issued by Ayatollah Khomeyni.

Mr. Hashemi, who was arrested at home, was identified as the head of Ayatollah Montazeri's office.

A statement released here said forces from the Iranian intelligence service took part in the arrests.

The Mojahedin also reported that clashes, which broke out earlier this month in several central Iranian towns between opponents of Ayatollah Khomeyni and Revolutionary Guards, were gaining in intensity.

Ayatollah Montazeri, who had become increasingly critical of the course of the Islamic revolution in Iran, resigned last month as successor-designate.

KEYHAN Editorial on Montazeri Resignation

PM1204111789 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 29 Mar 89 p 2

[Editorial by A.'A. Mas'ud: "What Is Good for the Regime"]

[Text] The resignation of Ayatollah Montazeri and the imam's acceptance provide valuable experience for the Islamic revolution in choosing its future leadership, which in itself speaks of the depth of the life of the revolution.

Four years ago when t
fill the void of leade the Council of Experts decided to
future, the name of ership in case of sad days in the
among those who had Ayatollah Montazeri stood out
role. The Council of E the ability to accept such a vital
its choice of Ayatollah xperts announced its decision and
deepest wishes as well Montazeri, despite the ayatollah's
l as those of the imam.

What encouraged the
choice 4 years ago wa Council of Experts to make its
and the importance o as the country's political situation
tain future of the re of choosing a leader for the uncer-
raged on, there was evolution. While the imposed war
and the council's ann concern over the future leadership
concern. nouncement removed much of this

However, events dur
during the last 2, hav ring the past 4 years, especially
the part of Ayatollah e shown that the lack of desire on
have been enough rea h Montazeri and the imam could
group of people, to be son to choose another person, or a
ecome deputy leader.

After having been cho
eri did not accept mar sen to the post, Ayatollah Montaz-
He preferred to con ny of the executive responsibilities.
center. Ayatollah Mon ntinue teaching in the theological
issues and in the mean ntazeri stayed away from executive
access to his house. ntime, opportunist elements gained
firmness when dealin The ayatollah displayed a lack of
were carrying coun ng with these types who naturally
home. This situation terrevolutionary thoughts to his
bring up new issues w went so far that the ayatollah would
mind that these issues hen writing to officials. Keeping in
foreign elements, thi s then would be used improperly by
country's executive o is whole situation meant that the
officers were left helpless.

The imam's farsighte
tion with issues such ed attitude and his basic confronta-
away from the hypoc h as "naive" thinking and staying
zation] and liberals t crites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organi-
path of the martyrs' o guarantee the continuation of the
best for the regime a blood once again favored what is
bove anything else.

At the news of Ayatol
imam's acceptance, llah Montazeri's resignation and the
dentedly rushed to a the Western mass media unprece-
their own beliefs. T nalyze the issue in accordance with
contradict themselve his time, as before, they began to
mentioned the diffi es and became confused. The BBC
despite the fact that iculty in choosing a future leader,
Constitution, which it is well aware of Article 107 of the
choosing a future lea clearly outlines the method for
ader.

The article says: Exp
those qualified for erts chosen by the people discuss all
leader with special the leadership. When they find a
duce him to the pe leadership qualities, they will intro-
leaders with proper eople as such. If not, three to five
introduced to the f qualifications will be chosen and
council. people as members of a leadership

Of course, the lying mass media of the West and East have the experience of June 1981 behind them [explosion at the headquarters of the Islamic Republic Party which killed 72 officials] and they know that what matters in the Islamic Republic is Islam, not personalities or individuals. Therefore, the Council of Experts will not have a particular problem with regard to Ayatollah Montazeri's resignation, and the Western mass media's propaganda will have been for nothing.

Meantime, the enemy's propaganda concerning the imam's acceptance letter is also worth nothing because the imam writes: The leadership of the Islamic Republic regime is a difficult task with dangerous and heavy responsibilities. It demands unbearable tolerance from you. This is why both you and I were against your having been chosen for the post. In this regard, we both had the same thought. This shows the coordinated thinking among the clergy at the highest level, particularly when the leader of the revolution says: Everyone knows that you are the fruit of my life's work and that I am very fond of you. This alone draws a line through issues such as "powers" in Iran and opens the way for a healthier future for the country.

Mohtashemi Reportedly Seeking Premiership

TA1204171289 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Our fellow strugglers have reported that in recent months 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi has dismissed 700 lieutenant governors, governors, and governors general, replacing them with his own elements. According to our fellow strugglers, this measure by Mohtashemi is aimed at paving the way for his own premiership.

It is being said in informed circles in Tehran that although Mohtashemi is trying greatly to gain the premiership, it is unlikely that he will attain his objective before the complete neutralization of 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

UK Moves on Blasphemy Law Criticized

LD1204150389 Tehran IRNA in English 1443 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] London, April 12, IRNA—A bill to protect the views of heretics has been presented to the British Parliament by Labour member, Tony Benn.

The move on Wednesday comes amid the rising controversy over the publication of Salman Rushdie's sacrilegious novel "The Satanic Verses" and seeks to abolish the common law offence of blasphemy.

It is being supported by former Liberal leader David Steel and former Conservative Cabinet Minister Ian Gilmour but is unlikely to make progress in the current session of Parliament, which ends in July.

Benn hopes to at least provoke wide public discussion on the issue with his proposal.

The existing blasphemy law implies the vilification of only the Christian religion and Bible, and British Muslims have been seeking to extend it to cover other religions, including Islam, so a private prosecution can be brought against "The Satanic Verses."

Many Muslim leaders are dismayed by the lack of government action over the book in the wake of the worldwide protests and believe that Senior Law Officer Allan Green could invoke a choice of legislations to effectively ban the satanic work.

Benn, who is know for his fervent support for the Iranian outlaws the Monafeqin-e Khalq terrorist organisation, has maintained that the Muslim demand to extend the blasphemy law will open up "endless court cases" and would "silence all humanists, atheists, heretics" which according to him are "free thinkers."

His proposal, put forward as a private member's bill, calls for the outlaw of all criminal proceedings "against any person for schism, heresy, blasphemous libel, blasphemy at common law, or atheism."

It follows a similar aborted motion presented exactly 100 years ago by atheist Charles Bradlaugh, at a time of widespread prosecution of blasphemies against Christianity.

The blasphemy act under British law dates from 1697, but since its repeal and transfer to an offence under common law in 1967, has rarely been invoked.

A recent test case came in 1979, wen a homosexual magazine was convicted for publishing a poem about Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him), but has not proved successful since.

The test is on whether scurrilous and irreverent words are likely to cause shock and outrage to religious believers, and an attempt by a group of Pakistani lawyers to invoke the law against "The Satanic Verses" failed last month.

The last review of the law came from the law commission in 1979, which likewise suggested that the common law offences of blasphemy and blasphemous libel should be abolished.

It recognised however cases like "The Satanic Verses" and said there was a "need for an offence" on publishing matter that could "wound or outrage the feelings of any religious group" but ten years on has not brought an action on [as received] by the Thatcher government.

UK House of Lords Debates Rushdie's Protection

LD1304114189 Tehran IRNA in English 1042 GMT 13 Apr 89

["No Indefinite British Pledge To Protect Rushdie"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, April 13, IRNA—The British Government has refused to give an assurance that the author of "The Satanic Verses" will receive indefinite police protection.

Salman Rushdie would continue to receive protection "while the threat to him continues at its present level," the Earl of Arran, speaking for the government, said Wednesday.

The issue was raised by Viscount Massereene and Ferrard during question time in the House of Lords upper parliamentary chamber, who described "The Satanic Verses" as "scurrilous and blasphemous."

The author had "grossly offended" the Muslim world, had caused a "great deal of offence" and had "impaired" Britain's relations with the Middle East.

Rushdie is still in hiding and seeking protection after a death sentence was pronounced upon him on February 14 by Imam Khomeyni for being an apostate.

The Earl of Arran was also asked by Lord Mishcon if there should be any cash limit the state should attach to the life of one person, however "misguided" he may be and no matter what he had written.

In response, the conservative peer said it was "extremely difficult to answer." It was really a "question of morals and ethics" and one he would prefer to pass on to the home secretary, Douglas Hurd.

Lady Strange, adding her voice, believed that Rushdie had written for "personnel gain" and said that he should "contribute some cash" for his protection, which some have estimated is costing British taxpayers more than pounds one million a year.

Muslims around the world, hailing Imam Khomeyni's fatwa [religious decree] have vowed to execute the Indian-born apostate sooner or later.

Turkish Foreign Ministry Spokesman Cited on Ties

LD1304104889 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT 13 Apr 89

["Iran-Turkey Travel Agreements Still Valid, Consultations Continue"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Ankara, April 13, IRNA—A spokesman of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said that Turkish officials are now reviewing Tehran-Ankara relations and diplomatic issues with the Turkish ambassador now recalled to Ankara.

In an interview with reporters Wednesday, he said that Turkey has not yet decided to re-establish visa requirements for Iranian tourists.

Iran and Turkey have long since waived visa requirements for each other's subjects. The two countries recalled their ambassadors last week in the wake of the ban on Islamic hijab for girl students at Turkish universities, which was strongly protested by the Islamic Republic as infringement upon women's freedom.

Iranian ambassador to Ankara Manuchehr Mohtaki was recalled to Tehran Friday. He returned to Tehran without reporting to the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Daily Blames Turkey for Deteriorating Relations

LD1304083489 Tehran IRNA in English 0814 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—The KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in an editorial titled "Turkish Blindness" Thursday, dwelt on Western propaganda in creating fears among Iran's neighbours on export of the Islamic revolution and the soured Tehran-Ankara ties over the violation of women's rights at Turkish universities.

The West has frightened Turkish statesmen of the very idea of the Islamic revolution and thus "provided grounds for dictating oppressive policies on them," said the English daily.

Iran has time and again said that export of the revolution means "to convey the voice of Islam to Muslims," noted the paper, and it was only in this context that the Islamic Republic expressed concern over the ban on hijab (Islamic dress) at Turkish universities.

Iran wanted to make the world aware of the protest of Turkish Muslim women against this compulsion.

It was unfortunate, said the daily, for the Turkish Government—a haven for Iranian anti-revolutionaries and terrorists—to interpret Iran's stance as "interference in its internal affairs."

The freedom of hijab is the birthright of all Muslim women, which no government has the right to infringe upon, and following Iran's protest over the Turkish court's ill-advised move, Ankara acted strangely by recalling its ambassador from Tehran, leaving the Islamic Republic with no other choice but reciprocate.

Drawing a comparison between coverage of the issue by the press of the two countries, the paper noted that the Iranian media avoided strongly worded articles, whereas on the Turkish side it was "indeed impolite and injurious to the friendly relations between the two countries."

The daily regretted the yellow journalism in the Turkish press, which not only printed anti-Iran articles but above all showed its hostility towards Islam and its divine values.

It is Turkey and not Iran which is worsening the relations through its propaganda ploys, it stressed.

The fact is, several Turkish political parties and even officials have protested the hijab ban at universities, and the media in Iran was only reflecting the voice of protest in Turkey and not indulging in propaganda war as alleged, pointed KAYHAN.

"Turkey has turned a blind eye to the realities and is reluctant to realize West's colorful designs against the Islamic State and its Muslims," concluded the article.

8-Party Coalition Briefs Reyshahri on Afghanistan

LD1204162389 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—Members of Afghanistan's eight-party coalition Tuesday briefed Iran's Minister of Information Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri on the latest political developments and situations at the fronts in Afghanistan.

Spokesman Mohammad Karim Khalili stressed that Afghan people and mujahidin, especially the Shi'ite Muslims—who constitute over 35 percent of the population—should continue struggling until final victory and establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

The minister replied that the Islamic Republic is the only country which takes an independent and principled stance on neighbouring Afghanistan's future.

The eight-party coalition should play its part in Afghanistan's political and military scenes and formation of and Islamic government, Hoj. Reyshahri emphasized.

The Iran-based coalition which controls large parts of Afghanistan was bypassed along with other independent mujahidin groups by the Peshawar-based 7-party Pashto alliance which hastily announced an interim government, following the Russian withdrawal.

Envoy Delivers SFRY Foreign Minister's Message

LD1304022989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] The Yugoslav charge d'affaires in Tehran met today with Mr Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister in charge of European and American affairs, and handed him a message from SFRY Foreign Minister Loncar addressed to Mr Velayati.

In that meeting, the Yugoslav charge d'affaires expressed his satisfaction with the expanding trends in relations and bilateral relations. He praised the expanding bilateral ties.

Referring to the forthcoming meeting of nonaligned foreign ministers next Ordibehesht [Iranian month ending 21 May] in (?Harare), he praised the role being played by the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to the movement's activities.

In reply, Mr Va'ezi said that the Islamic Republic of Iran will support the SFRY's policy on the Nonaligned Movement. He expressed hope that the movement will become more active with regard to Yugoslavia's policy on important international issues.

Residents Told To Evacuate Qal'at Dizah

LD1204143589 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Bakhtaran, April 12, IRNA—As Iraqi troops are closing in on the northeastern Kurdish town of Qal'at Dizah, Kurdish peshmerga attacked an officers club a few day ago. A security officer was killed and several others wounded in the attack.

The regime has decided to raze the town as part of its "scorched earth" policy in Iraqi Kurdistan, and to facilitate its sinister designs, has given an ultimatum to the 100,000 odd residents to abandon Qal'at Dizah by April 25.

Paper Accuses Iraq of Genocide Against Kurds

LD1304080689 Tehran IRNA in English 0735 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—The United Nations and the U.N. secretary general have been urged today by an Iranian daily to prevent the massacre of Iraqi Kurds in the town of Qal'at Dizah and their forced resettlement in distant arid areas on the Saudi Arabian border.

Referring to the news that the Iraqi regime has given ten days to the Kurdish population of Qal'at Dizah to leave their homes before the town is razed to the ground by the regime, the TEHRAN TIMES editorial called it "a blatant act of genocide."

The English-language paper compared the denial of the news by the Iraqi Embassy in London with the Iraqi chemical attacks on Halabjah and extermination of thousands of Kurds in March 1988, which was unabashedly denied by the same embassy.

The paper underlined that "since the coming to power of the Iraqi Ba'th Party, the genocide against the Muslim Kurds has been continuing: and that "the present planned destruction of the town of Qal'at Dizah follows the same line."

"The Baghdad regime want to justify its measures under the pretext of 'security action' in connection with the Iraq-Iran war," the paper said and added that "nothing but a fraud."

"The silence of the United Nations and the person of the U.N. secretary general in this connection is not justifiable."

"The prevention of genocide is the duty of the U.N. and under no conditions can this be considered as 'interference' in the internal affairs of a country," concluded the daily.

SAIRI Foresees Chemical Attack Against Kurds

LD1304100289 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—The Tehran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) in a communique Wednesday deplored Iraqi schemes against the Kurds in the Qal'at Dizah city of Al-Sulaymaniyah Province.

SAIRI said there are indications that the Iraqi regime intends to deploy chemical weapons against civilians in the Iraqi city and decimate a large number of them as it did in Halabjah in March 1988.

In its communique the organization has also appealed to international organizations for preventing the Ba'thist scheme and for preparing to cope with adverse developments in that country.

It said Division 24 of the Iraqi Army has now laid siege to the Kurdish town while military planes flying overhead portend planned bombardment of civilians.

Larijani Examines Persian Gulf Security

NC1304062889 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 30 Mar 89 p 2

[Dr Javad Larijani commentary: "Persian Gulf and Some Security Concern"]

[Text] The security of the Persian Gulf is "collective" and "regional". It is collective, hence there is no need for any "gendarme" in the region. It is "regional" therefore is no need for external forces to preserve it.

Iran is the major element in the region, so no security is thinkable with the exclusion of Iran. By that I mean any politico-military alliance based on hostility, or a kind of "self-guard" against Iran will be totally harmful to the security of the Persian Gulf.

What are the major threats to the security of the Persian Gulf? Now and in the future. Very simply, I believe it stems from two sources: inter-regional aggression, and external interferences.

For the first category, we should consider the aggressive and expansionist appetites of the present regime in Iraq as the prime source of instability in the region. This region, without exception, has border claims against all of its six neighbors, and more importantly, it is ready to use "force" to settle disputes whenever it feels it feasibility.

But still this is not the main point: The present regime in Iraq is eagerly striving to lead the "Arab world". To this end they aim to dominate the scene in the Persian Gulf. I think they are ready to do whatever possible in this regard. This is, indeed, the most prominent threat to the security of the Persian Gulf.

There is no reason to assume that the Soviets will be unhappy about this adventure. And, after all, why should the security and stability of the Persian Gulf be a matter of priority for them?

Other "gypsies" in the region are Britain and America. But they face a dilemma: On the one hand, in order to protect their dominance they should prevent any serious challenge to their stooges in the region keeping in mind their incompetence and unpopular nature. On the other hand they suffer from a "paranoia" about Iran. They live with a nightmare about the Islamic revolution and the very deep social and political changes caused by it.

This obsession is preventing the Western politicians from seeing the reality in the region and consequently of following a reasonable policy, if not a just one!

New Deputy Minister of Transport Appointed

LD1304032389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Excerpts] This afternoon the cabinet reviewed important domestic and regional events. The deputy prime minister in charge of executive affairs submitted a report on agreements reached by the banks and the central headquarters for reconstructing and renovating areas affected by the war concerning the reconstruction of Khorramshahr and Abadan.

The report includes the banks' commitment to rebuild the great bridge between Khorramshahr and Abadan as well as their commitment to build 15 clinics and 50 schools in Khorramshahr and Abadan. The banks declared their readiness to make investments in municipal services as well as provide banking services to the two municipalities.

According to the report, the banks will offer housing loans for a minimum fee to those suffering war damages, to a maximum amount of 6 million rials payable over 25 years in the urban areas and 2 million rials repayable over 25 years in rural areas. Urban trade and business units can also borrow up to 2 million rials repayable over (?6 and ½ years) and 1 million rials for the same units in rural areas repayable over 6 years. This would be in addition to the government's own grants to these people. [passage omitted]

On a proposal by the transport minister, the cabinet approved the appointment of Mohammad (Nabi-Habibi) as chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority as well as deputy minister of transport. The cabinet expressed appreciation for the services of Mr Rana'i-far, the former head of the civil aviation authority. [passage omitted]

Rahmani Interviewed on Ending Aid for War

LD1204124489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Mr Rahmani, supervisor of the Mobilization of the Deprived, in an interview with reporters this morning concerning the message of his grace the imam about ending the activities of the staff headquarters for acquiring aid for the fronts, said: Taking note of the existing cease-fire in the war and the credits that this headquarters has set aside for continuing its tasks, his eminence the imam of the ummah, as the supreme Jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih] was asked what should be done with public properties. In this headquarters, in accordance with his eminence's instructions, the necessary measures will be taken within the established time.

But, the Mobilization of the Deprived unit, on the basis of the imam's message in the month of Azar last year [November 22-December 21, 1988] will continue its activities until the 20-million strong army is realized to safeguard the achievements of the revolution and the expansion of the radius of the Islamic revolution in the world. [passage omitted]

Nepal

King Birendra on Landlocked Position, Problems

BK1304080789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] King Birendra of Nepal has said his government is ready to settle the problem created by Nepal's position as a landlocked country through friendly dialogue and negotiations. In a message broadcast over radio on Nepal's New Year Day today, King Birendra said it is unfortunate that at a time when his government was moving ahead with the task of fulfilling the basic needs of the people, they have been exposed to hardships, most of them by Nepal's geography as a landlocked nation. The All India Radio Kathmandu correspondent reports that without referring to the present difficult situation arising out of the expiry of trade and transit treaty with India, the king's entire message focused on this problem.

Leftist MP's Arrested for Defying Ban on Rallies

BK1304094989 Hong Kong AFP in English 0939 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Kathmandu, April 13 (AFP)—Five leftist parliamentarians and a student were arrested Wednesday for violating a ban on demonstrations in the Nepalese capital, police said.

The five members of the National Panchayat (Parliament) were trying to address a gathering to denounce trade restrictions recently imposed by India, police said.

Riot police baton-charged thousands of Kathmandu residents, students and youths to disperse the crowd that had gathered for the meeting at Itumbahal, a historic courtyard on the outskirts of the capital, witnesses said.

The five pro-Marxist and Leninist parliamentarians are strong critics of Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha and have said India's policy toward Nepal amounted to "hegemonism."

Police identified those arrested as Padma Ratna Tuladhar, Drona Prasad Acharya, Som Nath Pyasi, Jagrit Prasad Behtuwal and Novel K.B. Rai.

Kathmandu authorities banned public meetings and demonstrations after riot police and protestors clashed on April 3 in an anti-Indian demonstration staged by pro-democracy and leftist students.

Officials said the ban had been imposed "indefinitely."

Bhutan

'National Dress' Compulsory for All Citizens

BK1304084989 Hong Kong AFP in English 0720 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] New Delhi, April 13 (AFP)—Bhutan has made national dress compulsory for all citizens, to preserve and promote the tiny Himalayan Kingdom's "unique identity."

National dress had hitherto been compulsory only for government employees in their offices in the Buddhist nation of 1.5 million people. But from May 1, all Bhutanese stepping out of their homes will have to follow suit.

A royal decree quoted by the national weekly newspaper KUENSEL in its latest issue reaching here said the measures were part of a plan for "preservation and promotion of national identity."

All men would have to wear the "ghos", a long, loose robe tied at the waist and pouched over the belt to form a pocket, and all women the "kiros", an ankle-length robe bunched at the waist with a wide sash and fastened at the shoulders with silver brooches.

No one should go out into the towns, villages or markets without wearing national dress, the decree said. Bhutanese found violating the decree would be fined 150 ngultrums (10 dollars) or sent to jail for a week.

Sportsmen involved in events such as archery, Bhutan's national sport, would have to wear the national dress at all times except in the arena. Even off-duty security personnel are bound by the decree.

Pakistan

Punjab Chief Defies Federal Government Orders

BK1204154989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Addressing a news conference in Lahore this afternoon, the Punjab chief minister, Nawaz Sharif, said the federal government has issued orders to the provincial government stating that the the deputy inspector general of police of Gujranwala range and assistant of Gujaranwala District should be relieved from their duties and that these two officials should report to the federal government.

The chief minister said he has ordered the officials concerned to discharge their responsibilities as usual, because the orders of the federal government are illegal and there is no justification for the transfer of the officials. He also said if the federal government does not stop issuing transfer orders of government employees without consulting the provincial government, the Punjab government will be constrained to send back all the employees of the federal government deployed in the province.

UN Envoy Lodges Complaint on Missile Firing

BK1304023889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Pakistan has complained to the United Nations that Afghanistan fired a Scud missile into its territory last week, causing extensive damage to property.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, S. Shahnawaz, the Pakistani representative at the United Nations, said that it is a brazen act of provocation by the Kabul regime designed to internationalize the Afghanistan situation. The letter said Pakistan will take all necessary steps to defend itself and to protect its people.

Sri Lanka

'Powerful Bomb' Kills 20 Persons in Trincomalee

BK1304060689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0546 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Colombo, April 13 (AFP)—A powerful bomb exploded in northeastern Sri Lanka Thursday [13 April] killing up to 20 people, mostly Sinhalese civilians, military officials here said.

The blast went off in a Sinhalese area of the port town of Trincomalee as residents prepared to celebrate the Sinhalese and Tamil New Year Thursday, officials said.

"We have no details. The first report we had from Trincomalee said at least 20 people were killed instantly and more were wounded," a military spokesman here said.

Trincomalee has seen bitter ethnic clashes between minority Tamils and majority Sinhalese.

Security sources here said they suspected that the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), was behind the bomb blast. The group has been accused of similar attacks in the past.

There had been tension between the two communities, who live in almost in equal numbers in the strategic port town, since early this month and unconfirmed reports said up to 122 Tamil families had fled the area.

Death Toll Rises to 41

BK1304082989 Hong Kong AFP in English 0759 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Colombo, April 13 (AFP)—The death toll in a car bomb attack in a crowded market in northeastern Sri Lanka Thursday rose to 41 with rescue workers recovering more bodies from the rubble, officials in the area said.

The bomb attack in the port town of Trincomalee was suspected to be the work of Tamil rebels, officials said.

It came a day after a government-declared week-long ceasefire in a bid to persuade Tamil and Sinhalese rebels to surrender went into effect.

In violence elsewhere, fighters of the most powerful Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), blew up an Indian Army patrol in Northern Province Wednesday killing 10 soldiers and losing two of their own men, officials said.

Government Proposes Direct Talks With JVP

BK1304035189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government has invited the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP—People's Liberation Party] for direct talks to settle conflict and restore peace in the island. A statement issued by the minister for foreign affairs, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, said the government has invited the leader of the JVP, Mr Rohana Wijeweera, or the general secretary, Mr Upatissa Gamanayake, to meet the president. However, the JVP could also name an accredited representative for discussions, the statement added.

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